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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE U. S. Sanitary Commission have long felt the need of some direct method of communication with their wide-spread constituency. Those who furnish the money and the supplies, by which our extensive ministry to the sick and wounded is maintained, have a right to more frequent and full accounts of what becomes of their charity than we have hitherto been able to give them. It is true, we have published a large number of documents containing this information, and distributed them widely; but they have necessarily lacked the freshness and the personal details which a less compendious and less formal account of our current operations would possess. A thousand intensely interesting particulars reach our several offices at Washington, Louisville and New York, which we are anxious should come to the knowledge of the people; and we propose in the BULLETIN to collect and report these pungent details fresh from the lips of our agents in the field and the hospital.

It is high time that an interest, now so rooted and grounded in its own methods as the U. S. Sanitary Commission, should possess an independent organ for the expression of its matured opinions in regard to the only safe and wise means of applying the gifts of the people to the relief of the Army. After all the careful discussion which the subject has received, there is constant danger of falling back into slovenly, wasteful, and injurious ways of supplying the wants of the soldiers. Only the most persistent and strenuous resistance to an impulsive benevolence, the most earnest and obstinate defence of a guarded and methodized system of relief, can save the public from imposition, and the Army from demoralization.

The health and safety of our soldiers require an organ, in which questions of Army-Hygeine can be discussed with sole reference to practical results. There is a steady tendency to the neglect or ignoring of preventive methods. The condition of our barracks, transports, and camps needs incessant watchfulness, and a perpetual cry of warning must be raised in the ear of the responsible civil and military authorities.

It is necessary, moreover, that the interest of the women of the country should be quickened anew in the work they have undertaken. We have warned them from the first that they were enlisted for the war; that their industry and self-sacrifice would be taxed to the utmost. There is no longer novelty or artificial excitement to sustain their activity. Only a steady principle of patriotic humanity can be depended on for continued labors in this holy cause. Thank God, there are thousands of noble women connected with our work, who for more than two years have given their best thoughts, and hours, and labor to the enterprise. Their zeal has outlived all superficial excitements. They go to their work, as the soldier goes to the front, or digs in the trench, or advances on the works of the enemy. It is their duty and their business while the war lasts. But ten thousand such noble women are not enough. They must be supported by a hundred thousand; yes, five hundred thousand other women of similar views and feelings, before our supplies can be accumulated in adequate quantities. Our machinery is in admirable order; our central reservoirs of supplies perfectly adapted to their purpose. It is only neces-

sary that, with the opening winter, every village Sewing Circle, or Soldiers' Relief Society, or Church, or Dorcas Association, should set itself about a systematic contribution of supplies to the central associations at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, or Louisville. This done, everything needed in the way of supplies can be easily and readily procured. If there is a jealous scattering of these resources, a little here and a little there, there will be a dreadful waste, and a melancholy abuse of the well-established principle of unity and economy.

Again, our moneyed men and institutions of wealth must see to it that the efficiency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission is not hampered by the want of abundant pecuniary resources. It is universally conceded that the efficiency of the Army has been vastly sustained by the watchful care of this Commission. It is not too much to say that our Generals in the field have come to depend upon it as a *sine qua non.* It is an established and indispensable part of the public service. The soldiers know it, and lean upon it as upon the Home-Arm. The nation has no right to withdraw this arm. It would not dare to do it outright. And yet, by allowing the strong muscles that have thus far held it out, gradually to contract and shrivel, they may, in effect, and without intending or knowing what they do, paralyze this arm, and find a withered hand where they thought they had a stalwart one outstretched. Nothing but a full treasury has given the U. S. Sanitary Commission its vigor and effectiveness. It has hitherto, for a long period of its existence, had a hundred thousand dollars at least in its treasury, between it and want. It cannot work with energy and success with a dollar less than this in reserve. In short, when it begins to spend the first dollar of its last hundred thousand, it must prepare to close its operations! It is not prudent nor possible for a body whose regular expenses are forty thousand dollars a month, to carry on its affairs systematically on the contingency of funds to come in. From this time, the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which sees its treasury already reduced to $125,000, and which, in one month, will see it below $100,000, must have a monthly subscription of at least $25,000 from the Loyal States, or its day is ended. All the supplies in the world will not obviate the want of money. The more supplies, the more the cost of properly and economically distributing them. We must maintain our machinery, or all the meal that comes to our mill will never be converted into bread for the soldier.

We purpose to make the BULLETIN the place where all information necessary to soldiers or to soldiers' families is to be found. Who are entitled to bounties and pensions, and how to procure them at the least expense, and with the most certainty; how furloughs are obtained; how our prisoners of war in the enemies' hands may be communicated with; how to get convalescents or sick men home; everything about the burial of the dead; these and similar questions will be carefully and reliably answered in our columns. The BULLETIN will be extensively circulated in the Army. It will also be sent to all our associate members—to all subscribers or donors to our funds—to every sewing circle contributing to our supplies—to such clergymen as apply for it for purposes of guiding their efforts—and to such other persons as we think fitted to use profitably, for the benefit of our sick and wounded, the information it contains.

It will be furnished also to subscribers, at $2.00 a year, and to single purchasers at 10 cents a copy.

It will be published twice a month, on the 1st and 15th of each month.

It is ardently desired that the ladies having charge of our home societies would send to the General Secretary such written suggestions or facts as they may think fitted to stir up other women to more abundant labors. Our inspectors and relief agents are admonished to keep notes of such incidents as have deeply interested them, and to forward them promptly to their respective chiefs, for the use of the BULLETIN.

All communications for "THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN" should be addressed to the Office of Publication, 823 Broadway, New York City.

REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *Oct. 6th*, 1863.

Rev. H. W. BELLOWS, D.D.,

President of the U. S. Sanitary Com'n:

SIR—Notified by you on the 16th of September of my election as General Secretary of the Commission, I accepted the trust, and have since, in anticipation of the present session of the Commission, been chiefly occupied in ascertaining the condition of its work throughout the country, and the probable requirements of its service in the future.

The present aspect of the work will best be exhibited to you in the reports herewith presented, from a consideration of which, and from the discussions of the scheme proposed by the Committee on organization and the Executive Committee for the partial reorganization of the work, the Commission will be enabled to determine what modifications it should direct for the future.

I may, however, be permitted to call the attention of the Commission directly to certain topics which seem to me worthy of their present consideration.

The question has been raised whether the Hospital Directory justifies by its usefulness the expenditure it occasions. The reports of Mr. Bowne, Superintendent of the Directory, and of Mr. Holbrook, of the Louisville office, present facts and considerations which may determine the Commission's action.

Should the Commission adopt that portion of the programme of work proposed by the Executive Committee, which divides the work of Relief and Inspection, assigning the latter only to the Sanitary Inspectors, directed by a Head not distracted by other duties, a renewed stimulus will be given to inspection and a greatly increased body of facts will accumulate, as data from which the Actuary should be expected to exhibit promptly, when called upon, the determined results of the particular analysis demanded. Unless the range of inquiry is kept restricted within unduly narrow limits, an increase of clerical force in the statistical department will be needed. I submit the question how far the plans of the Commission will admit of expansion in this direction.

The activity of other organizations, State and Federal, in presenting to the loyal communities the claims of their especial work of relief for the Army and Navy, has, in some quarters of the country, overshadowed a just apprehension of the work which is being more noiselessly, but perhaps not less thoroughly, done by the Sanitary Commission. In some instances grave misapprehension of the Commission's disposition and discouragement on the part of its friends, on account of supposed impairment of its usefulness, has been created by the too highly-colored statements put forth by the advocates of competing organizations.

It seems only just to those who have heretofore contributed money and stores to the Commission, that they be from time to time reassured by personal conference with one of its accredited agents as to the wisdom of its plans, and be enabled to exhibit to others its varied beneficence and its judicious methods. To more thoroughly and minutely inform the rural communities on the work and wants of the Commission, as well as to remove misunderstanding and to correct false statements, an increase of the force of canvassing agents, of late months much reduced, is recommended.

* * * * *

The evident necessity of popularizing information as to the Commission's plans and practical workings more fully than it has heretofore been done in its octavo documents, is very apparent. The issue of the *Sanitary Reporter*, at Louisville, has done much in this direction. Though given largely to details of work west of the Alleghanies, it is believed to have excited a growing interest in the Commission in all the loyal States in which it has been distributed. The booklet, "What we did at Gettysburg," by a lady who served us and humanity there; and the story, from the journal of the Special Relief Agent, "The Lord will Provide," have already been enjoyed by hundreds who would never have

been induced to take up Document No. —. The Commission may think it well to consider whether or not it should open another avenue of communication to the heart of the people, by reviving the suspended project of the "BULLETIN OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION," or by affording in some other way the always welcome information of what is done for the Army.

Constant efforts to stimulate the flow of supplies of hospital food and clothing have resulted, during the quarter, in yielding to the Commission's storehouses about the average quarterly product of the past year, and there is little reason to doubt the continuance of this rate of supply. But this is not sufficient to relieve the Commission from the frequent necessity of considerable purchases in the commercial market, which fact may be adduced as another argument, not only for occasional appeals to the loyal people from the Commission, or its Committees, but also for the multiplication of wayside agencies through its district canvassers.

In accordance with your instructions, I, on the 24th of September, caused the oath of allegiance to the United States to be administered, in the following words, by a magistrate, to the employees of the Commission, assembled by order:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, }
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON. }

We, the undersigned, of Washington County, D. C., do solemnly swear, on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, without any mental reservation, that we will, at any and all times hereafter, and under all circumstances, yield a hearty and willing support to the Constitution of the United States, and to the Government thereof; that we will not, either directly or indirectly, take up arms against said Government, nor aid those now in arms against it; that we will not pass without the lines now established by the Army of the United States, or hereafter from time to time to be established by said Army, nor hold any correspondence whatsoever with any person or persons beyond said lines so established by said Army of the United States, during the present rebellion, without permission from the Secretary of War; also, we will do no act hostile or injurious to the union of the States; that we will give no aid, comfort, or assistance to the enemies of the Government, either domestic or foreign.

Thirty-seven thus acknowledged their fealty—all who could be gathered. On the next day four others cheerfully took the oath, and one person who declined to do so was, by your order, discharged from the service. These forty-two persons constitute the whole number of individuals who are employed by the Commission in this city. The order has been given to the Acting Associate Secretary in the Eastern Department to cause the oath to be tendered to each person employed by the Commission in the Department, the alternative of promptly taking it being dismissal from the service.

I submit herewith a roster of persons in the service of the Commission, October 1st.

I present also the accompanying Reports. [See list at end of Reports.]

Respectfully submitted.

J. FOSTER JENKINS,
General Secretary.

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

GENTLEMEN—In accordance with the request of Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, I beg leave to submit the following as my Report of the work of the Commission so far as it has come under my observation, during a temporary occupation of the Associate Secretary's desk.

On the 29th of July I reported in Washington, with the view of using it as headquarters for my operations in the Army of the Potomac. Dr. Douglas, who was then about starting off on a month's leave of absence, requested me to take charge of such duties as might require the consideration and direction of the Associate Secretary. I have acted in accordance with this request and an order of the Executive Committee (dated Sept. 15, 1863,) down to the present time.

WASHINGTON AND VICINITY.—The Hospitals in Washington and Alexandria have been inspected very carefully by Inspector C. W. Brink, during the months of August and September. His reports, herewith submitted as Documents 1, 2 and 3, will show the exact condition of these Hospitals. They show improvements consequent upon increased knowledge and care on the part

of their officers, and will now compare favorably with the best Military Hospitals which the Medical Department has established for the accommodation of the sick and wounded soldiers of our great Army. Our Hospital Visitor (Dr. G. C. Caldwell) has made stated visits to them all, and issues of stores have been freely made from our local storehouse on requisitions of the surgeons, in accordance with the advice of Dr. Caldwell. The requisitions of the surgeons have been invariably required in order to avoid the injury to discipline which an indiscriminate distribution of stores, through the hands of irresponsible persons, always produces.

In the early portion of September, reports having reached the office concerning the sickness of the camps occupied by the 10th N. Y. Artillery, Dr. C. W. Brink was ordered to make special inquiry into the causes of the ill-health prevailing, and to endeavor to have such changes in location as good sanitary principles would indicate. The result of his inspection is to be found in Document 4.

Annapolis, Md.—Inspector Nichols having been ordered from the Department of Norfolk, reported at the Central Office, Aug. 5. After a few days spent in preparing an account of his work at Norfolk, he was sent to Annapolis, with the view of making an inspection of the Camps and Hospitals at that place. That inspection (comprised in Document 5) will show how shockingly unfit for the accommodation of men was the camp then employed for paroled men. It is a subject of congratulation that this disgrace to the nation has been abolished; that our paroled prisoners are at present located in comfortable barracks on a new camping-ground; and that much of the destructive tendency to body and spirit which surrounded the old camp no longer exists in the new location. The life of a paroled prisoner is one of a dispiriting character. He cannot occupy himself with the daily occupations of a soldier's life—his parole prevents that. Consequently, unless some employment, either mental or physical, be furnished him, he becomes a trifling, worthless man—not fitted for the duties either of a soldier or a citizen. Athletic games, and all the varied drills of a gymnasium, would do away with much of the exhausting *ennui* of Camp Parole. A hundred dollars spent in putting up gymnastic apparatus would be the means of saving the health and the morals of many men now undergoing a process of demoralization and enfeeblement. Would not the establishment of a Gymnasium at Camp Parole be a subject worthy of effort on the part of the Commission?

A word is due here to a representative of the Commission on duty at Camp Parole Hospital. Miss Clara Davis, of Philadelphia, has acted as our representative for four months, taking under her special charge the low-diet kitchen. The testimony of patients and surgeons represents the attentions of this kind-hearted, Christian woman as most acceptable to the men. In this retired place she has devoted herself—administering to the wants and needs of suffering humanity. No words can express the value of such work—they seem at best but feeble mockery when used to describe the self-sacrifice of one who devotes her days to smoothing the pillow of the invalid and extending the little attentions which a mother or a sister would offer the sufferer.

In order to meet a want which has existed for some time in this region, a resting-place or temporary home for the wives and female relatives of the inmates of the Hospitals, the Special Relief Agent has established a "Home" in Annapolis, where they may obtain food and lodging. Of this he will doubtless report to you at length.

Convalescent Camp, Virginia.—I ask the attention of the Commission to the Report of Miss Bradley (Document 5½) on the operations in this Camp, which have been conducted by her as a Special Relief Agent. She has labored untiringly to have abuses redressed, and by her personal exertions has made many a soldier feel that, though absent from home, he was not without friends. Her own simple statement of the nature of her work may well cause surprise that she has accomplished so much by her own efforts. Such agents are an honor to the Commission, through whose auspices they labor in the cause of the soldier.

Special Relief Department.—The operations of this Department have continued

to be of their usual important character. These have been attended to, during the absence of the Chief, by his indefatigable assistant, Mr. J. B. Abbott. They comprise altogether different classes of cases from those coming under the eye of the Corps Relief Agent. The latter distributes under the eye of the Medical Officer, and mostly on his requsition, while the relief agent from the Special Department goes directly to the needy without any such intermediation. My observation of this Department makes me anxious that the most liberal encouragement should be tendered it by the Commission. These special cases can only be properly relieved by those who are trained through an every-day experience, extending through months of close observation, so as to prevent help being extended to the unworthy, or help being kept from the deserving.

Soldier's Lodge in Alexandria.—The Special Relief Department is mentioned in this general way, because a more particular report belongs to another officer. I may, however, mention more particularly one establishment belonging to this Department, as it was established during my term of service, and more especially for the use of the sick and wounded of the Army of the Potomac—I refer to the Soldier's Rest, in Alexandria. This may be considered as holding a relation to the Army of the Potomac analogous to that of the Lodge at Aquia, when the army was opposite Fredericksburg. Finding that numbers of sick and wounded were arriving in Alexandria, and were exposed to much privation on their arrival, I dispatched Mr. James Richardson to ascertain what could be done towards establishing a house for temporary relief. He found in Col. J. H. Devereux, the Superintendent of Military Railroads and Transportation, a willing appreciator of all our plans, and one very willing to aid in their execution. A building was appropriated for the purpose of a Soldier's Lodge, and through the assistance and liberality of Col. Devereux, one of the neatest and most useful Lodges now maintained by the Commission has been placed upon a firm and secure basis. I refer to Mr. Richardson's own report for a very lucid account of the establishment of this Lodge, (Document 6.) Mr. Edgerly's report of its operations from August 13 to September 20 (Document 7) will give an idea of the benefits that have already resulted.

Physiological Examination of Soldiers.—The examinations and measurements of soldiers, for the collection of materials in the Department of Vital Statistics, have been continued at Camp Barry by Messrs. Buckley and Balch. Mr. E. B. Fairchilds has been engaged on like duty at Davids Island, with the Confederate prisoners confined there. By permission of Col. Hoffman, Commissary-General of Prisoners, he will go to Pt. Lookout as soon as transportation can be procured, with a view of prosecuting this work to a greater extent than was possible at Davids Island. The deductions to be made from these measurements being likely to prove of the greatest possible benefit to military and sanitary science, I advise their continuance for at least three months longer. It is only by a large quantity of data that we shall be in condition to discuss their value, and to arrive at reliable results.

Baltimore.—In Baltimore the storehouse has been in charge of Mr. J. T. Pancoast, who has worked with a zeal and honesty of purpose worthy of all imitation, not only in the discharge of his duties as Depot Agent, but as Hospital Visitor. This agency has been of immense importance, as many of the supplies forwarded to Gettysburg and Frederick, during and after the Confederate invasion of the loyal States, were purchased in Baltimore, where Mr. Knapp had located his headquarters for this special purpose. In this complicated business Mr. Pancoast always proved to be most valuable as an aid. The Special Relief Department in Baltimore has been in charge of Mr. Bullard.

A full examination of the Hospitals of Baltimore was made, in accordance with orders from this office, by Inspector Julius Nichols, early in the month of September. From an examination of this (Document 8) a very excellent idea may be obtained of the present condition and capacity of these Hospitals.

Hospitals at Hagerstown, Boonsborough, and Harper's Ferry.—The Hospitals at Hagerstown, Boonsborough, Harper's

Ferry, and Maryland Heights, have been visited at stated terms by Messrs. Hiram Schisler and John C. Stranahan, and such wants as were discovered were freely supplied from the storehouse at Frederick. This storehouse will be closed in a few days, as the necessity for its continuation has ceased. During the twelve months of its existence it has disbursed many thousands of dollars worth of stores to the wounded of the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and to the needy and sick of the army within a circle of 30 miles radius, since the occurrence of these memorable battles. Its mission has, however, been closed, and I hope the changing fortunes of war will not necessitate its re-establishment. The soldiers have had abundant cause to bless the beneficence of the loyal people, who enabled the Commission to furnish it so abundantly, that all wants of the army, as fast as they have been made known, have been supplied.

Norfolk and Vicinity.—On the 5th of August I ordered Mr. James Gall, Jr., to proceed to Norfolk and take charge of our relief work in that Department. He has faithfully performed the duties of Relief Agent since that date, acquiring much credit for himself and the Commission by his indefatigable labors. His Reports, eight in number, furnished this office weekly, will show how faithfully and with what good results he has labored. (See Documents 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.)

The sick-rate at Norfolk having increased to 30 per cent., I deemed it important to direct the attention of the Acting Surgeon-General to this important fact. He immediately had a medical inspection made of the Department, and adopted measures to obviate, as far as possible, the causes of disease. Although the sick-rate increased to between 40 and 50 per cent., still I have the happiness now to state that this rate is diminishing. We have issued largely to all the hospitals and regiments in the Department, having been able to keep up the supplies through the propeller Elizabeth, placed under our orders by the Q. M. Department. These supplies have included large quantities of antiscorbutics and the other articles comprised on our supply list.

The arrival of negro troops in this Department, and the existence of camps of contrabands, some in Government employ and others only receiving Government support, demanded instructions as regards the policy of the Commission in this respect. I ordered Mr. Gall to furnish to troops (without reference to color) our supplies on requisitions of medical officers, and to aid moderately sufferers in employ of Quartermasters and Commissaries; but also that beyond these two classes of persons, in my opinion, [the supplies of the Commission could not be extended. As this has been the policy of the Commission in the past, so far as I understand it, I presume my action will be approved, as regards the department of Norfolk. It has, at least, given satisfaction thus far.

Mr. Gall has done essential service to us by his efforts to effect the release of our officers who were in the hands of the Confederates. The Report of Dr. Douglas on the battles of Gettysburg contained a full account of the seizure of these officers. Efforts were made to obtain their release, through petitions from Confederate surgeons in our lines, addressed to Gen. Robert Lee, private letters from citizens of the District of Columbia to their friends in Richmond, and a direct communication from myself (dated Aug. 28, 1863) to Robert Ould, Esq., Confederate Commissioner for the Exchange of Prisoners. To these efforts must be added the valuable services of Gen. Meredith, the U. S. Commissioner. Mr. Gall aided in all these, and finally, on the 22d ult., the trivial technicalities on which these officers were retained being removed, they were delivered to Gen. Meredith, and once more breathed loyal air. Mr. Alfred Brengle has, however, still been retained by the Confederate Government, under plea that he was seized because he had conveyed stores to a beleaguered post.

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Newbern, North Carolina.—Dr. J. M. Page, Sanitary Inspector, assisted by Mr. Page as Storekeeper, has charge of this District. No letters or Reports have been received from there during my term of service, excepting regular transmissions of accounts of stock and lists of sick and wounded for the Directory.

Beaufort and Morris Island.—Dr. M. M. Marsh, assisted by Mrs. Marsh, has been in charge of this District. His communications have shown how indispensable have been the supplies which the Commission has furnished to the troops engaged in active operations on Morris Island, and how these have been received by the soldiers as well as officers. General Gilmore has issued a special commendatory order with reference to the efficiency of the Commission, and Dr. Marsh has received full assurances from him of the acceptability of our work. As Dr. Douglas has made a recent inspection of this District, and as all the supplies have been forwarded directly from New York, I pass over this portion of my report, presuming that full information will be furnished from other sources.

New Orleans.—Inspector G. A. Blake has been in charge of this District. It is probable that the Army of this Department will be employed in a movement towards the occupation of Texas. A wide sphere for the operations of the Sanitary Commission will thus be opened up.

Western Virginia.—Finding that the troops under General Kelly's command occupying stations and camps from Cumberland eastward to Point of Rocks were in need of supplies, I ordered Dr. Julius Nichols to inspect these troops, and to report their needs as they met his eye in his course of inspection. He has already made requisitions to meet the wants of the Hospitals in Cumberland and Martinsburg. Thence he goes westward, and will return here next week and report the result of his inspection. Should his report be ready before the adjournment of the Commission, I will send it in for your consideration. [This report was made at the close of the session.]

The Army of the Potomac.—The first labors of the Commission were directed to its sanitary condition, and when the work of furnishing relief to the needy and suffering was undertaken as a part of the Commission's duties, it began the work in this Army with a zeal that has continued down to the present time undiminished in its day of defeat or triumph. Early in May, 1863, the operations of the Commission in the Army were consigned to the care of the present writer, which has been continued to the date of the present report, excepting so much as had reference to the operations for a few weeks after the battle of Gettysburg. Dr. J. H. Douglas, one of the Associate Secretaries, was in charge at the latter place during the period to which reference is made, returning the duty to my hands afterwards.

With the view of meeting wants as they might arise in the field, and of preventing that suffering peculiar to armies separated from their base of supplies, the Field Relief Corps was reorganized shortly after the battle of Gettysburg. A special report has been made on the subject of this organization to the Executive Committee, which is now passing through the printer's hands. The design is to have a corps of gentlemen acting as relief agents, each in a separate corps, furnished with his own means of transportation, and lodging in the field. We have been peculiarly fortunate in our selections. The agents are welcomed as co-laborers in the great war of law and right by the officers. They furnish the needed articles just where they are needed, and personally superintend the distribution, keeping an eye always to the proper use of what they have issued. While laboring for the good of the whole Army, each feels a special pride in seeing that his own special family—the Corps to which he belongs—is kept in the best possible condition. He feels a generous spirit of rivalry towards his fellow-agents, and is not willing that his own work should be, in any manner, inferior to that of his brethren. By a system of weekly reports made to the Chief Inspector, the latter is enabled to control the whole movement of the Corps and to keep up a complete knowledge of the perfection or imperfection of the machinery employed. A package of these reports is herewith submitted to the inspection of the Commission, so that an idea may be gained of the ability of the men employed in this work. Much information is acquired in these reports that has heretofore been furnished by the formal inspection of our inspectors. They have frequently served as a basis of action in regard to the sanitary condition of regiments, as well as the nature of the supplies demanded by the troops.

The promptness with which our agents make their appearance when needed may be well illustrated by an extract from the last Report of the Agent of the Second Army Corps, which was on the advance when the movement was made towards Culpepper. He says: "During the last two weeks of movements, I have the satisfaction of knowing that my wagon was always ahead of any other means of relief; that I dispensed relief to wounded cavalry from the front within an hour after their wounds were received. While our own team was in motion I have passed out articles to surgeons in charge of ambulance trains returning from the front." * * * * * * *

The Medical Inspector of this Army says, "We could not do without the Commission; it furnishes so many things which cannot be obtained from Government." The Medical Director says, "It gives me no trouble; there is no interference."

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With the view of obtaining materials for the discussion of *the effects of long marches and inadequate food on troops*, Inspector W. S. Swalm has been detailed, in accordance with a plan agreed upon by the Chief of the Statistical Department and myself, for this duty. He has nearly completed an examination of two corps, having made between sixty and eighty inspections of regiments. Should any change of plans in the Army bring on another engagement before this work is completed, the data already obtained by Dr. S. will be of the greatest possible importance; but their value will be much enhanced should he be enabled to finish this work.

Gettysburg.—Our work with the wounded continues to the present time. Dr. Gordon Winslow, formerly Chaplain of Duryea's Zouaves, was placed, by Dr. J. H. Douglas, in charge of the operations at this place. Samuel Bacon, Jr., has been acting as Storekeeper. This depot has been invaluable. In addition to the enormous distribution of stores mentioned in Dr. Douglas' Report, (Document 71,) the issues have been very large down to the present time. As soon as a want was detected—and Dr. Winslow seems to have been Argus-eyed in this particular—it has been supplied. We have purchased, on Hospital Fund account, everything required for the Hospital which was not obtainable from the Commissary. The bills for these purchases, amounting to over $3,000 up to August 15, were paid by the Commissary. Since that time these purchases have amounted to between $3,000 and $4,000. They will also be paid by the Commissary.

In order to show the esteem in which the Commission is held by medical officers at Gettysburg, the following paper has been signed by them:

Camp Letterman Hospital,
Near Gettysburg, Sept. 26th, 1863.

The undersigned, surgeons and assistant surgeons of the General Hospital near Gettysburg, take pleasure in expressing our gratification at the manner in which the affairs of the Sanitary Commission have been managed in this place since the late battle. The supplementary articles for the sick and wounded soldiers have been abundant, comprising every requisite which the exigency demanded, and which nothing but a well-regulated system, with much experience and forethought, could have secured. We are furthermore convinced that the system adopted by the Sanitary Commission of disbursing their supplies only on the requisition of a surgeon, is the only proper and safe method. Any other course necessarily supposes an extra force, which is calculated to cumber the hospital with irresponsible attendants, distract the public benefactions, if not divert them from a just and equal distribution among the patients for whom they are intended.

Henry Janes, Surg. U. S. V. In charge of Hospital, Gettysburg.
E. N. Chamberlain, Surg. U. S. V. In charge General Hospital.
S. W. Oakley, Surg. U. S. V., and Acting Medical Purveyor.
J. D. Osborne, Surg. 4th N. J. V., and Executive Officer of Camp.
W. F. Breakey, Assistant Surg. 16th Mich. Infantry.
H. C. May, Assistant Surg. 145th Regiment, N. Y. V.
J. B. Sturdevant, Assistant Surg. Penn. Vols.
Chas. S. Gauntt, M.D., A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.

B. F. Butcher, A. A. Surg,, U. S. A.
J. A. M'Arthur, A. A. Surg., U. S. A.
W. L. Hays, A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.
H. H. Sutton, A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.
E. P. Townsend, A. A. S., U. S. A.
Albert B. Stonelake, Ass't Surg. U. S. A.; in charge of 7th Division.
D. R. Good, A. A. Surg., U. S. A.
P. S. Leisenring, A. A. Surg., U. S. A.

Hospital Visiting.—This subject is so well treated in the Report of Dr. Caldwell that I can do no better than to direct attention of the Commission to the same. I must, however, give my testimony in favor of the honest and conscientious manner in which Dr. Caldwell has executed the delicate duties of a Hospital Visitor. He has temporarily retired from its duties, expecting to resume the same during the coming month. Until that time his place will be supplied by some other employee of the Commission.

Issues.—I submit an account of the issues made during the months of August and September from the Washington Storehouse. This will enable the Commission to understand how large the issues have been. Further particulars as to the directions these issues have taken may be obtained from the books of the Central Office.

The issues from the storehouses have been very large, in consequence of our systematic plan of visiting the armies near Washington, and more especially the Army of the Potomac. As the result of this our stock of some woolen goods is becoming low, and in the item of stimulants we have been obliged to purchase largely, but (I believe) on fair terms, in the Washington market. I am satisfied that the amount misused is now as near the *minimum* as is possible. The agents are, as a general thing, careful in this respect, and from experience have learned whom to trust.

In closing this Report, I must express my belief that the Commission has done all that could have been reasonably expected from it during the last two months; and that more may be expected hereafter in consequence of the experience acquired in the past, if a sufficient amount of supplies and funds be placed at its command. Officers are working with a quiet enthusiasm which could not be obtained for money, or any other reward; and every employee will find it a source of incalculable pleasure, in the future, that he once labored in its ranks, at the command of a great people, whose souls' heartiest wish and desire was that no suffering should exist in the Army of the Union which might be prevented by anything procurable through money or kind words.

With due respect,
Your humble servant,
LEWIS H. STEINER,
Chief Inspector A. of P.,
Acting Associate Secretary.

Washington, Oct. 1, 1863.

REPORT OF THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY BUREAU.

Sanitary Commission,
Oct. 1, 1863.

To Dr. J. Foster Jenkins,
Gen'l Sec'y:

Sir—In my last Report, of June 9th, I had the satisfaction of saying that the Hospital Directory of the U. S. Sanitary Commission was receiving regular returns from every General Hospital of the U. S. Army. This remark still holds good. I have to report no increase in the number of Hospitals from which Reports are received at the Central Office, or its several branches.

The number of names recorded on the books of the Hospital Directory from June 9th to Oct. 1st have been as follows:

At the Washington Office	64,635
" New York "	18,771
" Philadelphia "	12,213
" Louisville, from May 9..	96,433
Total	192,052
Add number of names on record June 9th	215,221
And we have a grand total of..	407,273

Recorded as follows:

Washington Office, to Oct. 1, '63	169,007
New York " " "	27,320
Philadelphia " " "	24,513
Louisville " " "	186,433
Total	407,273

The number of applications for information and the number of answers rendered, from the organization of the Directory to Oct. 1, 1863, have been as follows:

Washington Office,	No. Inq.	6,712	No. Ans.	4,524
New York	"	"	656	"	474
Philadelphia	"	"	547	"	348
Louisville	"	"	5,852	"	4,016
Total No. Inq.		13,767	Tot. Ans.	9,362

The Monthly Abstract Sheets are being regularly tabulated, as reported in my last, and as the new form of the Morning Report from Hospitals recently recommended by the Surgeon-General is being adopted throughout the Army, the continuation of this branch of the Hospital Bureau will require an increase of the clerical force of two, and perhaps four, competent persons for the work of tabulating.

The tabulated returns of casualties as rendered to this Bureau, of the actions at Gettysburg and Morris Island, July 18th, are herewith presented.

An interesting incident, showing how the Hospital Directory can be of aid to the soldier, has just transpired.

One —— ——, Co. C, 64th Regiment New York Volunteers, has by the death of relatives abroad become heir to a fortune of half a million of dollars. But where is private ——? He has not been heard from for a long time, and it is not known whether he is alive or not. It was suggested that the Sanitary Commission be applied to for information.

The reply to the inquiry was as follows: —— ——, Co. C, 64th Regiment, New York Volunteers, was admitted to U. S. General Hospital, Camp A, Frederick, Md., Nov. 26th, 1862, transferred to Camden St. Hospital, Baltimore, May 17, 1863, and again transferred to Fort Schuyler Hospital, New York, April 24, 1863. On the 17th July following, he was detached to the 1st Battalion Invalid Corps, and is now on duty at Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN BOWNE,

Superintendent Hospital Directory.

REPORT OF SPECIAL RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

CENTRAL OFFICE, U. S. SANITARY COM'N,

October 1st, 1863.

DR. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary:

SIR—My last report upon Special Relief was dated December 15th, 1862. The present report furnishes the statistics of the work from that time to the present date, October 1st, 1863, a period of nine and a half months.

The main purpose kept in view in this work of Special Relief for the past two years has been this, as indicated by previous reports:

First. To supply to the sick men of the newly arrived regiments such medicines, food, and care as it is impossible for them to receive, in the midst of the confusion, and with the unavoidable lack of facilities, from their own officers. The men to be thus aided are those who are not so sick as to have a claim upon a general hospital, and yet need immediate care to guard them against serious sickness.

Second. To furnish suitable food, lodging, care and assistance to men who are honorably discharged from service, sent from general hospitals, or from their regiments, but who are often delayed a day or more in the city, sometimes many days before they obtain their papers and pay.

Third. To communicate with distant regiments in behalf of discharged men whose certificates of disability or descriptive lists on which to draw their pay prove to be defective—the invalid soldiers meantime being cared for, and not exposed to the fatigue and risk of going in person to their regiments to have their papers corrected.

Fourth. To act as the unpaid agent or attorney of discharged soldiers who are too feeble or too utterly disabled to present their own claim at the paymaster's office.

Fifth. To look into the condition of discharged men who assume to be without means to pay the expense of going to their homes; and to furnish the necessary means where we find the man is true and the need real.

Sixth. To secure to disabled soldiers railroad tickets at reduced rates, and, through an agent at the railroad station, see that these men are not robbed or imposed upon by sharpers.

Seventh. To see that all men who are discharged and paid off do at once leave the city for their homes; or, in cases where they have been induced by evil companions to remain behind, to endeavor to res-

cue them, and see them started with through-tickets to their own towns.

Eighth. To make reasonably clean and comfortable before they leave the city, such discharged men as are deficient in cleanliness and clothes.

Ninth. To be prepared to meet at once with food or other aid, such immediate necessities as arise when sick men arrive in the city in large numbers from battle-fields or distant hospitals.

Tenth. To keep a watchful eye upon all soldiers who are out of hospitals, yet not in service; and give information to the proper authorities of such soldiers as seem endeavoring to avoid duty or to desert from the ranks.

On this basis of objects aimed at, I report concerning the work during the past nine months in general terms:

1. Most of these old methods of relief have been continued with satisfactory success.

2. Some new methods of relief have been resorted to, which, in their practical working, have justified their introduction.

3. The class of men rightfully claiming this Special Relief assistance of the Commission has enlarged, embracing with those to whom help was previously given, others whose newly-developed or increasing needs naturally brought them under our care.

4. The arrangements which are made by the Commission in this direction (Special Relief) has evidently become still more generally known, and applied for, and appreciated throughout the Army.

5. The co-operation of the Medical Department of the Army, as also of the Quartermaster's, Commissary's and Paymaster's Departments, has been still more ready and cordial even than before.

6. The cost of maintaining this branch of the Commission's work during the past nine (9) months has somewhat diminished relatively to the number of men who have been assisted, and the amount of assistance rendered to them; although the total amount is about one-half larger than in an equal term of time before.

7. While nine (9) months ago the direct call upon the Commission for help from disabled discharged soldiers, after they had returned to their homes, was but infrequent, it has now so largely increased (through applications made to the Special Relief Office) as to justify me in presenting to you in detail—appended to this report—some of the facts of the case, as also some statistics which I have collected bearing upon the subject; and to call your attention to the urgent necessity which evidently exists for having, from some source as early as possible, a comprehensive and practical system matured and instituted, which will provide for this class of men; unless we would have throughout the community a host of mendicants who, pointing to their honorable wounds and disabled bodies, will have established their necessity and right to live upon the charity of the people.

Having made these general statements, I will now report, in detail, but briefly as may be, upon the several branches of Relief;—and first, at Washington:

1st. "*The Home,*" 374 *North Capitol Street.*—Increased accommodations for securing room and comfort at the Home, referred to in my last report, have been obtained; and now, instead of 140 beds, we have at the Home 320, besides a large baggage-room, a convenient washroom, a bath-house, &c. Two of the additional buildings, one 16 feet by 60, the other 28 feet by 90, were put up by the Quartermaster's Department. The third building, 30 feet by 50 (with an L 20 by 35) for a "Hospital," this was at the expense of the Commission, at a cost of about $800. The necessity for this building, devoted exclusively to Hospital purposes, is found in the fact, that although the men who come under the care of the Commission are mostly on their way to their homes, and might therefore be supposed to be not so very feeble as to need specially "Hospital" treatment, yet, as a matter of fact, many of them are weakened to such a degree by disease, that by the time they reach Washington, or the railway station from the front, or from the various hospitals, their strength is nearly exhausted, and they are only restored, if at all, by such care as hospital treatment affords; and frequently they are too far gone to make even that available, as is indicated by the record, which shows that from February 23d to October

1st, there were received at the Home 665 men, very sick, who were placed in the new Hospital, of which number thirty-eight died there. This was from February 23d, when this new building was opened; but dating back to December 15th, there has been under the charge of the Commission, including those just named, some 900 men who were very sick and feeble, of which number a total of sixty-one (61) have died at the Home. These were nearly all men having their discharge papers with them, and they had, consequently, given up their claim upon the General or Regimental Hospitals, and had taken the first stage of their journey towards their homes. If they had not found the care which the Commission thus offered to them, these same men must have died in the cars along the way, or at some stopping-point on their journey. Of the remaining 840 of these very feeble men, we have reason to believe that many, except for the care and rest secured to them by the provision of the Commission, could not have lived through their journeys.

This unusually large proportion of very sick or dying men who came into our hands is accounted for by the fact, that at the time of the advance movement of the Army in the spring, and the breaking up of the Corps Hospitals near Aquia Creek, discharge papers were granted to many soldiers who, in their earnest desire once more to reach their homes, counted upon more strength than was left to them, and so they came to us, and waited there till, with straining eyes, and one hand reached out towards the friends they had hoped and longed to see, they died. And allow me here to record this fact, that although these men died thus waiting, hoping, watching to catch the light which almost fell upon them from their firesides at home, yet from the lips of no one of those sixty dying men has a murmur or complaint been heard; tender messages did they leave to be sent on, but not one word of repining at their fate; no syllable of regret that they had joined the ranks—discharged from the service they were, but soldiers still—they died in their country's cause.

In charge of this "Home Hospital" is an experienced and kindly nurse as Matron, Miss Charlotte Bradford, who served faithfully last summer upon the "Hospital Transports;"—there are day and night watchers, and all facilities for giving cheerfulness and comfort to these men detained by the way.

The surgeon now in charge of the Home is Dr. T. B. Smith, whose report accompanies this; his labors are successful. Dr. Smith is also Medical Examiner for Pensions, for the Commission. The former surgeon in charge, Dr. Grymes, who for nearly a year and a half had given his whole soul and strength to the work, died in January last. He was at his post almost till the hour of his death, though too feeble to walk without support. He had a loyal and a loving heart, and the Commission as well as the soldiers certainly have cause to remember him with the deepest, tenderest gratitude.

In order to show more in detail the work of the "Home," I make the following extracts from the Report of Dr. Smith, included in the Report of Mr. J. B. Clark, the Superintendent:

"On many occasions, either during my visits to the sick, or just previous to their departure for home or their regiments, have soldiers spontaneously, and with emotions of gratitude, exclaimed, 'Doctor, this is very unexpected kindness,' 'I have seen no such care and comfort since leaving my home.' One recently said to me, while sitting in the Hospital and looking upon the completion of arrangements for his departure, 'Doctor, I have been so kindly treated here, and been helped so much more than at any time before, since my sickness, that I am almost afraid to go beyond that door.' These are a few of many grateful expressions which the comfort they have enjoyed has called forth from the soldiers under treatment in this Hospital; and not from these only; for we keep at the Home constantly a supply of beds, stretchers, and comforts of all kinds, to be placed on board the cars when needed there—articles which are daily sent for from the railroad station, where notice is given that all these aids are ready, near by, for any sick soldier who needs them on his journey.

That the community at large are only partially informed of the character and

amount of good work done in this institution, I am well satisfied, judging from the expressions of favorable surprise made by citizen visitors and relatives of soldiers who come in from abroad, and thus see and judge for themselves. The procuring of pay, pensions, and transportation for the men while they lie comfortably in the Hospital under treatment, would alone be accomplishing much, the omission of which would cause indescribable suffering, and loss and anxiety to the disabled soldier."

"Many within the past four months have reached the 'Home' in a dying condition. Such have invariably, I believe, been carefully watched; their own names, and parents' or friends' names and residences obtained and recorded; their effects secured, labeled, and stored away safely. When thought wise, on account of time requisite to reach this city, their friends have been informed of all these circumstances by telegraph. The dead are in all instances afforded a proper burial in the Government grounds, and each grave properly designated; or, if so requested by friends, the bodies are forwarded."

"In June last many of the two years' regiments went home, and on their way through this city, their wounded and sick who were too feeble to go forward with the regiments, entered our little Hospital. Over 120 have in this way either stopped, to be subsequently properly disposed of in General Hospitals, or simply to have their wounds dressed and eat a meal, to invigorate them for the tiresome railroad journey before them."

"The doors of the 'Home' are open night and day; yet vigilant watch is kept, not to harbor any man who ought to be with his regiment, or reporting to some Medical Officer. Otherwise, the 'Home' would quickly become what of course there is, as we are ready to acknowledge, apparent and real danger of its becoming, unless wisely managed, viz., *a philanthropic interference* with Army discipline, pleading its humanity as an excuse for its intrusion. To unite tender kindness and cordial welcome with the exercise of a discriminating judgment, and often stern authority, is not easy; but I believe that in our Special Relief work the presence of the one does not exclude the working of the other, and that not the soldier only, but the Army, is the stronger because of the 'Home.' The name of every man who enters there is recorded, his papers examined, and how he came there, found out. Whenever there is a doubt about the man, a thorough investigation of his case is at once made, which sometimes results in turning over to the military authorities deserters, and men who think that within the walls of a charitable institution they can find a ready shelter for a mean shirking of duty.

"I enter this record because it is needed to answer the honest objection which, on the ground of its 'tendency to weaken military discipline,' might be made to the fundamental principle on which the Special Relief work of the Sanitary Commission is based, and on which the Homes and Lodges, scattered now all over the East and West, are founded. The authority and importance of military discipline are not set aside or lost sight of; on the contrary, they are always rigidly insisted upon. In this work the Sanitary Commission, as the representatives of the people at home, seeks to do precisely what it believes would gladly be done—were it right or possible to enter into this kind of work—by the Military and Medical authorities themselves, under the administration which the people all so cordially desire to support."

To turn again to the records of the Home.

Number of different individuals received there from Dec. 15th, 1862, to October 1st, 1863	7,187
Number of nights' lodging furnished	26,523
Number of meals furnished	65,621

Almost all the men received here have been men discharged from the service on account of disability, wounds, or continued sickness. Of these, one-half at least were delayed in the city on account of imperfections in some of their discharge papers, the final statements, on which to draw their pay, requiring often a number of days for their correction.

The Superintendent's report divides the 7,187 men received recently at the Home as follows:

Maine	374
New Hampshire	194

Vermont	177
Massachusetts	865
Rhode Island	63
Connecticut	152
New York	2,063
New Jersey	410
Pennsylvania	1,658
Delaware	29
Maryland	35
Virginia	36
California	3
Michigan	259
Ohio	178
Indiana	118
Illinois	55
Wisconsin	199
Minnesota	10
Colorado	3
District of Columbia	5
U. S. Army, (Regulars)	262
U. S. Navy	1
Quartermaster's Department	8
Political Refugees	7
Contract Nurses	53

Next in order after the "Home" is *Lodge No.* 2, in "17th" Street: this was no longer needed, and was closed in March; larger accommodations more centrally situated rendered its continuance unnecessary.

Number of nights' lodging given them from Dec. 15th to March 12th	1,550
Number of meals	2,130

Lodge No. 3, in "F" Street. When this Lodge was built, the office for the payment of discharged soldiers was near by, in "F" St.; that office having been removed to "H" St., this Lodge has been closed: (it now is used as the local storehouse of the Commission, and furnishes excellent accommodations.)

From Dec. 15th until it was closed, this Lodge furnished nights' lodging	3,760
Meals	17,960

Lodge No. 4, in "H" Street. This is the new Lodge with large accommodations, immediately connected with the office of the Paymaster for discharged soldiers. It was opened about the 1st of February.

Number of nights' lodging furnished at Lodge No. 4, from February 1st to Oct. 1st	9,832
Number of meals furnished	50,096

This relief station consists of six buildings. A dormatory of a hundred beds: a dining-room, seating about one hundred, with a large kitchen attached: a baggage-room, where all the discharged men coming in to be paid off can deposit their baggage, receiving a check for it: a storehouse: quarters for the guard: and a building containing the office of the Free Pension Agency, office of the Medical Examiner for pensions, and ticket office for the Railroad agent, selling through-tickets to soldiers at reduced rates of fare.

All disabled soldiers discharged directly from the Army of the Potomac or from the Hospitals in this vicinity come to the Paymaster's office, which is within this same inclosure, to be paid off. Government can no longer hold itself directly responsible for these men, and here is where we take them up. Yet Government cordially cooperates in our work, furnishing to the Commission part of these very buildings, and giving such army rations at this Lodge as we can use for these men advantageously with our other supplies.

The object of the whole thing at this Lodge is this, viz.: so to supply to the discharged soldier close at his hand and without a cent of cost, all that he needs—food, lodging, assistance in correcting his papers, aid in looking up his claims, help in obtaining his pension and his bounty—such that there can be no excuse or opportunity for the soldier to put himself or be put into the hands of claim agents and sharpers, or to go out and expose himself to the temptations of the city.

To secure this end, every man who comes to the paymaster with his discharge, at once receives a ticket insuring him care and a helping hand; and by an arrangement with the paymaster, whenever a man appears with defective papers, he is at once referred to the Relief Office for assistance or advice. The work at that office occupies three persons constantly, besides those who go with cases that have to be looked up personally at the hospitals or with the regimental officers in the field, and cannot be arranged by correspondence.

To indicate something of the kind of work done here, I make the following extract from the report of Mr. J. B. Abbott, who has served most faithfully and efficiently as Assistant Special Relief Agent, with his office at Lodge No. 4, and upon whom almost the entire responsibility in this department for the past year has rested.

"At this office and Lodge No. 4, from Jan'y 1st to Oct. 1st, 1863, the number of discharged soldiers whose accounts against the Government have been settled through our assistance, men who were too feeble to attend to settling their own accounts, or who were unable to obtain their pay, because of some charge against them on the pay-rolls, or some errors in their papers, 2,130."

Information and directions have been given relative to settling pay accounts, collecting arrears of pay, extra duty pay, commutation money to about 9,000 men.

The aggregate value of the 2,130 cases amounted to $130,159.01. This amount was collected and paid to the soldiers through this office.

But for the gratuitous aid thus afforded these soldiers discharged from the service, disabled by wounds or worn down by long marches and exposure in the field, or enfeebled by disease, anxious to get home, would have applied to "Claim Agents" for aid in obtaining speedily their dues from the Government, submitting willingly to pay a commission ranging from 10 to 40 per cent. These agents, with some rare and admirable exceptions, in four cases out of every five, impede the settlement of accounts instead of facilitating them.

Taking 10 per cent. as an average, which is the lowest commission usually charged by Claim Agents, the amount saved to the soldiers in adjusting the 2,130 cases of which a record has been kept, is shown to be $13,015.90. Add to this 10 per cent. of the probable aggregate value of the 9,000 cases in which information and directions have been given, (for in most of these cases the soldiers would otherwise have gone to Claim Agents,) and the amount saved to the soldiers through the Commission by this office is shown to be at least $70,000 during nine months ending Sept. 30th.

The number of letters written in adjusting the above cases of sufficient importance to make a copy necessary, 2,224.

Many of the cases have been very difficult to adjust, requiring several weeks to complete them. Below I add extracts of two or three cases from a day's record of the Journal, which will show explicitly the character of the cases we adjust and the difficulties we meet with in completing them.

"Serg't Edward W. M. Passage, Company F, 16th Reg't Mich. Vols. Enrolled at Plymouth, Mich., in July, 1861, to serve three years or during the war. 'Discharged by reason of a Surgeon's Certificate of disability, given at Convalescent Camp, April 30th, 1863.' The Commander of the Post being unable to obtain from his Company Commander his descriptive list, the date of last payment could not be given in his final statements, nor his clothing account, except the amount ($3.60) of extra clothing drawn at Convalescent Camp. Left his regiment in June, '62, just previous to the battles before Richmond, having fallen a victim to the malarial fever; was put into one of the corps hospitals for a few days, and then sent to Fortress Monroe, where he remained a short time. He was then transferred to General Hospital in Philadelphia. In this Hospital he received a furlough for thirty days, and went home to Detroit, Michigan. At the expiration of his furlough, being unable to report back to Philadelphia, he reported, as soon as he was able, to the nearest military post, St. Mary's General Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; but not aware of the proper form, did not notify the surgeon in charge of the Hospital in Philadelphia, where he received his furlough; consequently he was marked '*deserter*,' and so reported to his Company Commander, who has borne him as 'a deserter' upon the subsequent pay-rolls.

"While in St. Mary's Hospital, having partially recovered his health, he received papers from Michigan authorizing him to recruit men for the service, at the same time receiving a furlough for twenty days, which was twice extended twenty days. At the expiration of his furlough extensions he reported to the commander of the Military Barracks at Detroit, who reported him for duty and forwarded him to Washington. From Washington he was sent to Convalescent Camp, and there pronounced unfit for military duty and discharged from the service."

"This man was not aware that he was marked 'a deserter' till he applied to the Paymaster-General to get indorsed upon his final statements the date of his last payment. Then he was informed that he was entitled to no pay, being borne 'a deserter' upon the pay-roll. He denied the charge, and was referred by the Chief Clerk to this office for assistance in getting the charge removed.

"We obtained a certificate from the surgeon or physician who attended him after the expiration of his furlough until he reported to St. Mary's Hospital, stating that during this time he was unable to report

because of disability. This certificate was given under oath before a Notary Public. Certificates were also obtained, one by one, from the several military posts where he had been, covering his time from the date he was marked a deserter to the date of his discharge. Upon these certificates we got the charge removed and secured his pay."

"Wm. Benty, private, Company F, 16th Regiment U. S. Infantry, enlisted at Clayton, Iowa, November 6th, 1861. 'Discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability,' given at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Md., April 7th, 1863, 'because of a gunshot wound, the ball never having been extracted.' The wound has not healed, and it troubles him very much; he is anxious to get home; says he 'cares very little about his pay, if he can only get home.' He was wounded at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, sent to Hospital, Newport, Kentucky, where he remained nearly three months. The surgeon considered him unfit for military duty, and was willing to give him a discharge, but could not, as he could not obtain his descriptive list. At his own request, the commander of the post gave him a pass to go to his regiment, then in Northern Alabama, to get his descriptive list. On his way back he was taken prisoner by guerrillas, (this was about the 22d of August, 1862,) his money and effects taken from him, and his papers destroyed. He was sent to Chattanooga, thence to Macon, Georgia, and after nearly two months' confinement, was sent to Richmond and paroled on the 18th of October, 1862. At the expiration of his pass, given by the commander of the post at Newport, Kentucky, he had been marked 'a deserter,' as nothing had been heard of him, and so reported to his commanding officer, who marked him 'a deserter' upon the regimental pay-rolls.

"We obtained a certificate from the Commissary-General of paroled prisoners, giving the date of his capture and parole, gathered up one by one all the important facts of the case, and forwarded them to his Company Commander, so that at length we obtained a certificate, certifying that the man had been wrongly marked 'a deserter." Upon this evidence, the charge was removed and his pay secured, amounting to nearly one hundred and fifty dollars.

"This man we furnished transportation home, from money of the 'Ware Fund,' and when his account was settled, we forwarded him a draft for his money."

"George Poole, Company K, 3d Maryland Vols., enrolled in Company C, Baltimore Light Infantry, in Dec., 1861; he was subsequently transferred to Company B. In June, 1862, the Baltimore Light Infantry was consolidated with the 3d Indiana Vols. He was put into Company K, a new company formed at the time of consolidation. Discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability given at Convalescent Camp; claims pay from the 28th of Feb'y, 1862, to the date of his discharge, except for the months of January, February, March, and April, 1863, for which months he was paid, except from the 29th of Jan'y to the 19th of Feb.; for this period his pay was deducted, he being marked a 'deserter.' I obtained an official certificate showing that he was not a deserter for this period, and got the charge removed, which entitles him to the amount deducted from his pay. To secure his back pay or get it endorsed upon his final statements, we were obliged to get statements from rolls in the 2d Comptroller's office, 2d Auditor's office, and offices of two regimental paymasters, besides examining several rolls in different accounts on file at the Paymaster-General's office, to verify his statement, or to obtain evidence that he was really entitled to the pay which he claimed.

"Having shown satisfactory evidence to the Pay Department that he was entitled to the pay which he claimed, it was endorsed upon his final statement, and his money secured, amounting to $186.85."

"We are daily completing such cases as the above, and some more complicated, which, except for the aid afforded by the Commission, would have been placed in the hands of claim agents before referred to, who usually charge in such cases from $25 to $50; or the soldiers would have disposed of their claims to some sharper for a passage home, as many of these men are very willing to do, after having been confined in hospitals for months, and anxious to reach their friends; and in such cases the man leaves with the word 'deserter' affixed to him."

"We are greatly indebted to the uniform kindness, consideration, and co-operation that has invariably been extended to us by the officers and clerks of the various Government offices with whom we have had business to perform. I desire especially to mention the names of E. H. Brooks, Esq., chief clerk, Paymaster-General's office, and Major D. Taylor, Paymaster of discharged soldiers."

"In submitting this report, I desire to bear testimony to the faithfulness of my assistants, and their constant interest in the work."

Lodge No. 5, near 6th Street Wharf. This was a small building, but it has rendered valuable service, giving food and shelter to sick or wounded men arriving on the boats from Aquia Creek, and furnishing food to be carried into such boats as, loaded with wounded, had no adequate provision for feeding the men on board.

An ambulance was stationed at this Lodge to take men to the Home, or to Hospitals: the Superintendent of the Lodge visited every boat immediately on its arrival at the wharf, and rendered all assistance and gave all needed information to the sick or wounded, taking those unable to walk in ambulances, and guiding the others to the horse-cars, and furnishing them with tickets to go to the Paymaster's office, or to the Home, or elsewhere, as the case might be.

There was one week, at the time of the breaking up of the Corps Hospitals near Aquia Creek, when we gave coffee and food to over five thousand (5,000) men on board the boats which arrived at the wharf.

The boats came up in such rapid succession, that with all the efficiency of the Medical Director, (and surely no man in the whole Medical Department—I am safe in saying—does or can more fully and admirably unite wise and energetic efficiency with kind and generous humanity, than does Dr. Abbott, the Medical Director at Washington), with all his promptness in having his entire train of ambulances at the wharf waiting night and day, it was simply impossible but that many of these men, numbered by thousands, should be detained often some hours before their turn would come to be removed. Meantime, they needed just the care we were ready to give to them.

This necessity existed, as is seen, from no oversight in having all reasonable provisions made.

And in this connection I may fitly refer, both for the sake of justice to the Medical Department, and as an apology for our own *existence*, to the frequent inquiry uttered, often in a tone of censure, how it is possible, if the Medical officers do their duty, that there can be any opportunity even for this supplementary work of relief.

The question shows utter ignorance of the terrific weight of work of the most complicated and delicate character, which the officers of the Medical Department had upon their hands, and of their constant liability to be called upon at any moment to meet great and unexpected emergencies. The fact is simply this: that while the Medical Department has made a larger and wiser provision for the comfort of the sick and the wounded than the world ever before saw, there is not, and cannot be, a minuteness of detail and a waiting at every corner to give to a fainting soldier a cup of water, such as friends at home in their anxious love ask for. Yet this work needs to be done, and therefore we, who are simply the hands to the people's heart and bounty, do the work. But if the Medical Department were to attempt it in all its minutiæ of detail, their power for their own hundred-fold greater work would be weakened in a way that would find no justification.

But to return from this digression: this Lodge, No. 5, was removed a month since to Maryland Avenue, near the R. R. Station, where it is doing the same work for the sick or wounded arriving by cars from the Army, which was formerly done on the wharf, for those arriving by boats.

The whole number of nights' lodging furnished at this building from Jan. 1st to Oct. 1st..... 1,620
Meals 14,590

Closely connected with the work at the Relief Station in Maryland Avenue is the Lodge at Alexandria, located within the stockade, near the railway track and junction, where all the cars to and from the Army stop. Here there is a Lodge 16 feet by 90, with an L 24x32, furnished with all conveniences of gas and water, and admirably arranged and conducted by Mr. James Richardaon, Special Relief Agent. Alexandria is now the "Gateway of the Army of the Potomac," and whenever a train of sick or wounded is coming in, a telegram is sent in advance from the front, and when the train arrives at this point food is ready for them and distributed among them while the train is waiting. Here, too, are often gathered at night sick men who arrive too late to go on to Washington, or who are unexpectedly delayed. A sign upon the office of Col. Devereux reads, "All sick, wounded, and invalid soldiers are requested to report to the Sanitary Commission Lodge."

The necessity for the existence of this Relief Station is indicated by the fact that during the first week after it was opened 1,761 meals were given here.

In January last "The Nurses' Home" was opened, under the care of Mrs. Dr. Caldwell, in Washington, near the Special Relief Office.

The Nurses' Home has proved a source of immense relief to nurses arriving in the city, and to those worn down by service at the hospitals and needing a few days of quiet and rest, and also to the wives and mothers, and sometimes daughters, of soldiers, who have come on seeking their husbands, or sons, or fathers, in the various hospitals. We have had a very large number, during the past two months, of this latter class to care for, who, utterly ignorant of the cost of the journey, and of obtaining board and lodging, even for a day or two, in the city, were utterly destitute and helpless. A number who were weary and almost broken-hearted have been received here as at a home. A number of refugees, also—mothers and little children—have been received here and warmed and clothed. This has proved in its working one of the *kindest* charities of the Commission.

Since the "Nurses' Home" was opened, in January, the total number of nights' lodging given here has been..... 1,583
Meals furnished..... 3,040
Number of different women sheltered and admitted..... 1,190
Total cost to Commission, about....$2,300

In regard to the Free Pension Agency, I make the following extract from the Report of Mr. Bascom, the Director:

"The Pension Agency of the Sanitary Commission commenced its work on the 10th of February, 1863, and up to this date (Oct. 1st) 985 applications for invalid pensions have been made from this office, and the necessary papers filed in the Government Pension Bureau."

The Agency has proved a beneficent one to the soldiers in many ways.

1. "It has saved to them already an aggregate expense of more than *six thousand dollars*, ($6,000,) and at the same rate will save in a year over ten thousand ($10,005.)

2. "It has rescued them from imposition, annoyance, and a great amount of trouble, in ascertaining in what way to procure their pensions.

3. "It has aided a considerable number of soldiers to obtain complete testimony to sustain their claims after their regularly appointed and paid attorneys have refused, unless with additional fees, to procure essential evidence.

4. "It has also come to the relief of several who had employed and paid attorneys whom the Pension Office has refused, on account of some misconduct, to recognize as attorneys in any case.

"Finally, the Agency has been of no small service to the Government, in procuring and forwarding *all* the testimony bearing upon a claim—that which makes against a case, as well as that which makes for it. In this way it will undoubtedly save many hundreds of dollars to the Government in a moderate length of time."

Agency for getting Back Pay for Soldiers in Hospitals.—It was found that very many soldiers in hospitals had various amounts of back pay due them, which their families sorely needed, but which was so tied up, that it could not be collected without an amount of investigation and labor which the Paymasters had no right to bestow upon individuals.

An agent of the Commission, authorized by the Paymaster-General's Chief Clerk, has entered upon the work of obtaining the necessary information in each such case, so as to enable the Chief Clerk to furnish to the man a certificate of the pay due to him, so that he can draw his money upon it.

The report of Mr. Neal, the agent of the Commission, shows that in Stanton Hospital alone, during the first week of his work, the back pay of 56 men was thus collected. Some of it had been due six or eight months, and the men had been mustered and paid for intermediate months, leaving this which was due in the position of an old debt. The total amount of money thus put into the hands of these 56 men (almost every dollar of which, as I learned, was sent to their homes by the chaplain,) was over $3,000. The detail of this work involves much painstaking labor, but its results amply repay for the time, expense, and care.

Another agency connected with the Special Relief Office has been the work of seeking to guard the discharged soldiers while scattered through the city from being robbed or foully dealt with. For this purpose during the past six months we have employed, besides a relief agent, a "Detective," who visits the R. R. Station and all the places of resort, and whose duty it has

been to watch for and bring to justice all persons who were imposing upon the soldiers, detaining them, leading them astray, or committing fraud upon them; and the city is full of men who are thus lying in wait for the soldier. This detective, by means which need not be specified, has rendered great service, and his work is not ended.

The Relief Station and branch of the "Home" at "Convalescent Camp," Alexandria, near Fort Albany, is still under the care of Miss Amy M. Bradley, formerly matron of the "Home."

The whole work is managed efficiently and with great success. She has the confidence and co-operation of all the officers in charge of the *Corps*, and daily she comes with ambulances into Washington, to the Paymaster's office, and to the "Home" and Railway station, bringing the sick and discharged men who have been receiving her care.

Miss Bradley's report of the past nine months' labor in this camp of some five thousand men, shows what an amount of work can be done, relief afforded, influence exerted by one individual thoroughly in earnest, and with resources at hand.

Tickets directing the bearer to call at the Sanitary Commission Lodge, for such articles as the Surgeon may specify, are put into the hands of all the surgeons and officers in the camp, and as occasion calls these tickets are filled out and given to the invalids who need supplies. In this way, since June 1st, (four months,) Miss Bradley has distributed from the stock kept constantly on hand, some four thousand of shirts, drawers, socks, &c., besides some 10,000 smaller articles, such as towels, handkerchiefs, slippers, and the like. Previous to April, at which time regular hospitals were first established here, Miss Bradley, in hospital tents attached to the Lodge, attended to the very ill, receiving there during that time 125 sick men.

She accompanied to Washington to the Paymaster's office during four months, and assisted many of the more feeble in getting their pay, discharged soldiers whose united pay amounted to over $100,000.

In the camp she visits and writes letters for the sick, and in all ways practicable ministers "special relief."

It has been a good work, and I may fitly mention, that under the wise executive management of Lieut.-Col. McKelvey, the name "Convalesent Camp" no longer is associated with suffering, but is synonymous with care, comfort, and kind and liberal provision for all that the convalescent soldier needs.

The cost to the Commission of maintaining this branch of its work in Washington and vicinity, from Dec. 25th, 1862, to Oct. 1st, 1863, has been about $24,500. This does not include nine hundred and eighty dollars used from the "Ware Fund," so called, money placed in my hands for purposes which do not so legitimately come within the original work of the Commission, but which yet has an earnest claim. Thus with that money we have sent to their homes discharged soldiers who were destitute, or almost entirely destitute of means:—many fathers, mothers, and wives of soldiers;—some families of refugees who came to us in the saddest condition of want, and Army nurses from the front, sick or worked down by devoted labor.

Could I give a simple picture—in one group, as they pass before me—of all the persons who have been helped by the few hundred dollars, entering with their anxious faces, their camp-worn or travel-worn garments, some in mourning, some very aged and bowed down, and some as little children, it would be a picture that with warm breath would breathe a blessing, which could be felt by the very heart of all those who have furnished the means for these additional charities.

(The remainder of this report upon Special Relief, embracing a statement of the work at the North and West, will appear in the next number.)

REPORT FROM THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

STEVENSON, ALA., Oct. 10, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

Sec'y Western Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville:

DEAR SIR—I regret that I am as yet unable to furnish you a detailed report of the operations of the Sanitary Commission in connection with the battles of Chickamauga

on the 19th and 20th ult. For the present I must beg you to gather an idea of the situation, so far as the Commission is concerned, from the hastily written letters and telegrams I have sent you from time to time, and from Rev. Mr. Heywood, who accompanied me to the front, and who returned some time since to Louisville. I can only at present give you an outline sketch, which I beg you to "fill in" with material already on hand.

Ever since the occupation of Chattanooga by our forces, our sole means of communication between that point and the railroad at Stevenson and Bridgeport have been by wagons over the Cumberland Mountains by two routes, the one being about 45 and the other about 60 miles from this place. The difficulties in the way of transportation were great, but not insurmountable. On the 17th of September seven army wagon-loads of well-selected stores were safely landed in Chattanooga, and on the 23d—thanks to the energy and perseverance of Mr. Murdrell, hospital steward of the 93d Ohio, three more loads were added to the stock. These stores constituted almost the entire dependence of the hospitals at Chattanooga until the Tuesday and Wednesday succeeding the battles. On those days trains containing portions of the Medical Purveyor's stores reached the front; thus furnishing another instance of the necessity of independent medical transportation.

On Monday the 21st, partly because of the pressing necessities of the hospitals, partly because of possible military contingencies, the order was given to distribute all the sanitary and medical stores on hand among the hospitals, and by Tuesday evening the Commission's rooms were cleared of their contents, and were occupied by our wounded men. Those who had not fallen into the hands of the enemy were made measurably comfortable. Dr. Read, who had been ailing for some time, and who had now, in addition, a wounded son thrown upon his hands, started on Tuesday, the 22d of September, with his son, and accompanied by Mr. M. C. Read, for the rear. The doctor, as I learned, (I passed him on the road without seeing him,) spent some time at Nashville, and then proceeded in search of much-needed rest at his home in Ohio. Mr. M. C. Read established his quarters at Stevenson, the principal depot for supplies, and commenced the reorganization of his department at this point. Mr. Redding, the storekeeper at Chattanooga, finding his occupation gone for the time being, returned to Bridgeport with the intention of accompanying such stores as could be transported over the mountains. Having started Mr. Larrabee to accompany six loads from Bridgeport, he came on to Stevenson, procured and loaded ten more wagons, and started with them for Chattanooga. On the day succeeding another wagon was added to another train, thus placing seventeen army wagon-loads on the road at one time. Various causes, among which was a remarkably heavy rain, conspired to delay the foremost trains, and at the time of the rebel raid five trains containing these seventeen wagons had accumulated near the foot, and on the hither side of the mountain. All were burned except a few loaded with forage, which were so wet that they could not be thus destroyed. Mr. Redding escaped, as did also Mr. Wm. Andrew. Larrabee had missed his train entirely, and reached Chattanooga before the attack. Dr. Barnum, the only remaining agent of the Commission at "the front," reported to Dr. Perin, the Medical Director of the department, for such duty as might be assigned him in caring for the wounded, and was assigned to temporary duty at U. S. General Hospital No. 1. On Tuesday Mr. Eno having inquired by courier from Bridgeport, as to the special wants at Chattanooga, dispatched some fifteen ambulance loads which were taken possession of at the General Field Hospital on the north side of the river. On Friday morning I reached Bridgeport, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Heywood and Mr. Bishop, and reached Chattanooga on the evening of Saturday, the 26th of September. The report of the former you have already received verbally, and those of the latter have been transmitted to the Hospital Directory as opportunity offered. Mr. Bishop has been very materially assisted in the labor of collecting the statistics of the killed, wounded and missing by Mr. M. D.

Bartlett, of Wisconsin, and has received some aid from others who came to the front as the accredited agents of the Sanitary Commission.

* * * * * *

One peculiarity of the situation here is the difficulty of transportation already alluded to, but, because of its bearing upon our work, of sufficient importance to call for more special mention. By the destruction of the bridge at Bridgeport, and the occupation of Lookout Mountain by the rebels, we were deprived of railroad communication with Chattanooga on the one hand, and on the other were cut off from the best route for wagon transportation. Two wagon roads over the mountain on the north side of the Tennessee River, which would elsewhere and under other circumstances be considered almost impassable, furnish the only available routes for the transportation of the *materiel* of war, the subsistence of troops, &c. This has very much impeded the work of the Commission in connection with the movements of the army beyond Bridgeport. Notwithstanding that every effort possible has been made at both ends of the route, the amount of transportation available for our purposes has been far short of the demand upon our stores, and of our ability otherwise to meet these demands. On the 17th ult., as already mentioned, seven wagon-loads, on the 23d, three wagon-loads, and on the 26th one wagon-load, and on the 29th fifteen ambulance loads of stores were all that could be got forward to the front during the month of September. Thus far this month we have been able to get but eight wagon-loads to Chattanooga. Besides these, four have gone in our service to the foot of the mountain with the appliances for the Lodge, and fifteen loads started for Chattanooga yesterday. Besides this, matters are now so far systematized that we can certainly depend on a certain amount of transportation in every train. All the stores which have gone forward were carefully selected, and have been of incalculable service. Besides these there have been frequent, and in some cases quite liberal distributions from the depots at Bridgeport and Stevenson upon requisitions of corps and division surgeons for the front; to the post hospitals at these places, and all along the route as far as Nashville, the wounded who were able to get forward have been constantly receiving such aid and comfort as were adapted to their necessities.

Thus much in a general way; the reports from Dr. Barnum, Dr. Castleman, Mr. Read, and of the disbursements from the various depots, all hereto appended, will give you the exact particulars connected with the supply department.

Such general inspection as I was enabled to make during my stay, indicated a very satisfactory state of health and feeling among our troops. Though not "exultant," or "panting to be led against the enemy," as newspaper reporters would have it, (there are few raw troops in this army,) they are in good heart, and ready to move at the word of command wherever their duty leads. Where half the time is spent in the trenches, and the other half in camps crowded together to the utmost state of compactness, perfect neatness of person and surroundings is impossible. They manage, however, to make themselves moderately comfortable with the appliances at their disposal, and their quarters show that considerable attention is paid to the observance of the conditions of health.

* * * * * *

In no one matter has our operations been more delayed by the difficulty of transportation than in the establishment of our "Mountain Lodge." On the 28th ult. I laid the plan for the establishment of a resting and feeding place on the ambulance route, for the benefit of the wounded in transitu, midway between Chattanooga and Stevenson, before Surgeon Perin, Medical Director of the Department. It at once received his hearty approbation, and the promise of every necessary aid. I readily procured the consent of Rev. O. Kennedy, Chaplain of the 101st Ohio, an excellent man, with a head, a heart and a hand always ready for any good work, to take charge of the Lodge, and have taken the liberty to appoint him an agent of the Commission for that purpose. Some delay was experienced in procuring the proper "detail" from his regiment, and he came to this place *via* the ambulance route, selecting the locality for the Lodge on the way.

After much delay and many disappointments he started on the 9th with the tents, stores and furniture, and we can say with as much certainty as of any future event, that it will be in complete running order in time for the next train of wounded men. The deprivations and sufferings of those on the two trains which have already come over that dreaded passage, have convinced every one of the necessity of the Lodge, and there is no room for fear for the future in this regard. It is expected that each ambulance train will so arrange its movements as to stop at that point, where there is an abundance of wood and water, and will be abundance of wholesome, palatable food, and of kind attention, for a good night's rest. The Chaplain has been indefatigable in his efforts to get the matter speedily and properly under way, and his former labors in connection with his regiment and in the hospital service furnish every necessary guarantee that this service will be administered faithfully and well.

Mr. Bishop has been busily engaged, in the face of many discouragements, in procuring accurate lists of the casualties in the recent battles; pressing into the service such aid as was available. You will remember that he started from Louisville immediately after the battles, with two assistants for that special service, Dr. Hillman and Mr. Wharton, both of the Directory office. It was thought best to leave Mr. W. at Nashville to accompany a carload of stores on the next train. At Tullahoma we met a train of eighteen cars, loaded with the wounded who had worked their way to the railroad terminus, and who had been embarked without food or surgical assistance. Quartermaster-Gen. Meigs, for whom the train had been specially dispatched, and who kindly permitted our party to accompany him, ordered the men to be fed by the only hotel in the town, and Dr. Hillman and an Indiana surgeon —name not remembered—were placed in charge to care for the wounded until they could be regularly relieved. Dr. Hillman found so much of that kind of service required along the road, and the difficulties of reaching Chattanooga so great, that he continued rendering such assistance as he could in that direction until Tuesday, the 29th, when he started for the front with one of the trains, which afterwards fell into the hands of the enemy. I regret exceedingly that I am unable to give further tidings of him. The General Hospitals have already commenced the transmission of reports to us, and as rapidly as possible all the hospitals will assume a more or less permanent form, and report daily to the office at Louisville.

I returned to this point from Chattanooga on the 5th inst., and expect to start for Louisville in two or three days. The work of the Commission has been reorganized here, and the force is distributed as follows: M. C. Read and Mr. Redding are at Chattanooga; Chaplain Kennedy and Larrabee are to manage, assisted by the necessary number of detailed men, the "Mountain Lodge;" and F. R. Crary has charge of the stores and work of the Commission at this point, assisted by Ira Place, the depot at Bridgeport having been withdrawn. With the exception of Chaplain Kennedy, of whom I have already spoken, you are well acquainted with the working character and abilities of these various representatives of the Commission in the field. Besides these, it is proper to make special mention of the labors of William Andrew, Esq., of Indiana, sent out by you to inspect, on the ground, the workings of the Commission; and of Mr. James Calvert, of Kentucky. The former has neglected no opportunity to alleviate the sufferings by which he was surrounded; to this end constantly laboring as a volunteer dresser in the hospitals, and accompanying a train of wounded on its three days' journey from Chattanooga to this point, and another from this to Nashville. The latter, so soon as he had assured himself of the safe deliverance of his three sons from the perils of the late battles, reported himself to me for such service as might be assigned him.

The two pressing wants at that time were the safe transmission of stores and the names of killed and wounded for the Directory; he preferred to undertake to supply the former need.

* * * * * *

On Tuesday, the 29th ult., and on Thursday, the 1st inst., ambulance trains were dispatched to the field for our wounded

left in the hands of the enemy. All who were severely wounded were paroled and brought in—those more slightly wounded being reserved for regular exchange, via Richmond. The men are uniform in their testimony as to the neglect and consequent suffering they experienced. Officers and men, including the surgeons who remained to take care of the wounded, were, in almost all cases, deprived of their blankets, overcoats, and in many instances shoes and other wearing apparel; they were robbed of the contents of their pockets—"greenbacks" being especially sought after. The food left for their subsistence was taken from them, and corn-meal and water furnished in its stead. They likewise suffered greatly from the impossibility of having their wounds properly attended to—the rebels having taken from our surgeons the greater portion of the appliances left for them—including instruments and bandages. The ambulances sent with a flag of truce for the wounded, ten days after the battle, and delivered into the hands of the enemy at their lines, were returned robbed of everything movable, and in many cases broken-down horses substituted for those sent out. These matters are referred to as affording another instance of the chivalrous character of our foe and of the manner in which he *practices* the amenities of war, of which none better than he can *speak*.

Notwithstanding the disagreeabilities, general and special, which have attended this campaign, and succeeded these battles, our soldiers are still the rare heroes they have hitherto shown themselves to be after the battles on the Peninsula, before Vicksburg and at Stone River. Suffering is borne with a bravery which is truly splendid; there is everywhere the *camaraderie* of veteran campaigners, and self-abnegation is often manifested worthy of the highest type of the Christian. That such a people battling in such a cause as ours should so suffer at the hands of such a foe, fighting for so infernal a cause, must even remain *here*, among the most inscrutable of the dispensations of an all-wise and all-good Providence.

Very respectfully,
GEO. L. ANDREW,
Medical Inspector.

REPORTS PRESENTED AT THE 14TH SESSION OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, HELD AT WASHINGTON, D. C., OCT. 6–9, 1863.

1.—Report of the Executive Committee.
2.—Report of the Committee on Reorganization.
3.—Report of the Treasurer.
4.—Report of the Auditing Committee.
5.—Report of Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, General Secretary, communicating the following reports:

A.—Report to the United States Sanitary Commission on the operations of the Eastern Branch, by Lewis H. Steiner, Chief Inspector of the Army of the Potomac, and Acting Associate Secretary, accompanied by the following reports:

a.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink concerning the Hospitals in Washington, August 8th, 1863.

b.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink upon Hospitals in the District of Columbia, August 17th, 1863.

c.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink on the Hospitals in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 10th, 1863.

d.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink on the 10th Regiment New York Artillery, garrisoning forts beyond the Eastern Branch, Sept. 13th, 1863.

e.—Report of Special Inspection at Annapolis, Md., by Dr. Julius Nichols, August 20th, 1863.

f.—Report of Dr. Julius Nichols, Sanitary Inspector, on Baltimore Hospitals, Sept. 2d, 1863.

g.—Thirty-four Reports from Relief Agents, Army of the Potomac, as follows:

Mr. N. Murray, 2d Corps. August 17, and September 27.
David S. Pope, 6th Corps. August 22, 16, 30, and September 5, 13, 20, 27.
Wm. A. Hovey, 1st Corps. August 8, 15, 22, 29, and September 5.
Clemans Soest, 3d Corps. Sept. 1 and 28.
John A. Anderson, 12th Corps. September 6, 3, and 7 to 22.
E. M. Barton, 5th Corps. September 6 and 13, and 6 others.

h.—Report of Dr. Gordon Winslow; account of work at Gettysburg, September 25, 1863.

i.—Eight Reports from James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, Norfolk, Va., from August 9 to September 27.

j.—Report of George C. Caldwell, Ph. D., on Hospital visiting for the months of May, June, July and August.

k.—Report of Dr. Alexander McDonald, Field Inspector, on his capture and imprisonment in Richmond, Va.

l.—Report from Rev. Mr. Scandlin, Relief Agent, same subject.

m.—Report from Gen. Kelly's Department of the Cumberland, October 8, 1863—Dr. Julius Nichols.

B.—Report of F. N. Knapp, Special Relief Agent, accompanied by the following reports:

a.—Report of the "Home," J. B. Clark, Superintendent.

b.—Report of the "Home," T. B. Smith, Surgeon.

c.—Report of Special Relief Station at Convalescent Camp, Virginia—Miss A. M. Bradley.

d.—Report of Special Relief Work at Alexandria—Rev. James Richardson.

e.—Report of Special Relief Work at Baltimore—Sumner Bullard.

f.—Report of Special Relief Work at Annapolis, Md.—Rev. H. C. Henries.

g.—Report of Pension Agent—W. F. Bascom.

h.—Report of Special Relief Work at Boston—John S. Blatchford.

i.—Report relating to local provision for the relief of discharged disabled soldiers and their families, and its administration in Boston, Mass.; prepared under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Boston associates.

C.—Report concerning work in the Statistical Department.—T. J. O'Connell, Chief Clerk to Actuary.

D.—Report of Superintendent of Hospital Directory—John Bowne.

E.—Report concerning the success of the Commission's arrangement for furnishing to the hospitals of this District fresh supplies of meat and vegetables, by F. N. Knapp.

F.—Report concerning supplies and supply-correspondence, by Mr. A. J. Bloor, Assistant Secretary.

6.—Report of Dr. J. S. Newberry, Associate Secretary, concerning the work of the Commission in the Western Department, accompanied by the following reports:

a.—Report of M. C. Read, concerning operations of the Commission at and near Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 24th, 1863.

b.—Report of Dr. Wm. Fithian, of operations of the Commission in Mississippi and Arkansas, Aug. and Sept., 1863.

c.—Report of H. S. Holbrook, Chief Clerk of the Hospital Directory at Louisville, Ky.

d.—Report of Rev. F. H. Bushnell, Hospital Visitor at Louisville and New Albany.

7.—Report concerning the work of the Philadelphia Associates, including a statement of the operations of the Protective War Claim Agency of the United States Sanitary Commission in Philadelphia, by C. J. Stille, Esq., Associate Member.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Dr. E. A. CRANE, Inspector of the Sanitary Commission.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Oct. 18, 1863.

MY DEAR DR.—I am just in from Morris Island; I had hoped to be in season to mail report by the Fulton, but she sails this morning, and I can send you but a line.

During the past fortnight I have visited and inspected —— regiments—the whole command—two regiments excepted, on Morris and Folly Islands.

The results of these inspections are very interesting. Some of the facts developed are such as I had not expected.

Scurvy does not now exist in the command before Charleston, nor has it existed to any great extent among our troops since operations against Charleston have been commenced.

I doubt whether intermittent and remittent fevers are more prevalent than in the Army of the Potomac.

The health of the troops is much above the average obtaining in commands so long employed in field service.

The prevailing diseases are diarrhœa, dysentery, and disabilities peculiar to overworked troops.

Since the reduction of Wagner and Gregg and the lessening of field service, the health of the troops has been steadily improving. * * * * * *

Yours truly,

E. A. CRANE,
Inspector.

Letter from Mr. A. B. DAY, Relief Agent.

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Oct. 15, 1863.

DEAR SIR—In addition to the wants of the Commission here of which I advised you in my last, per Arago, I beg to add:

Tea, bed-pans, pillows, bed-sacks, bed-clothing, astringent medicines, Brown's Extract Ginger, and woolen clothing.

We are nearly out of Boston and farina crackers. Antiscorbutics of any kind will be very useful. We still have diarrhœa, dysentery, and malarial fever. Diarrhœa is our chief malady. Our cherry brandy and blackberry cordial is nearly out. We are now sending a barrel full of water, vinegar, sugar, and ginger mixture every day to Gregg and Wagner for the men to drink. They esteem it quite a godsend. If you could send us a cask of ginger, it would be eminently useful. Curried cabbage nearly gone.

Some very complimentary resolutions were passed by the 3d N. H. Regiment at a regimental meeting, and a copy handed in here expressive of their obligations to the Commission. Others, I learn, are coming in soon. * * * * * *

In haste, yours, &c.,

A. B. DAY.

Letter from Chaplain WAYLAND, 7th Regiment Connecticut Vol's.

7TH CONNECTICUT VOL'S, MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Oct. 14, 1863.

REV. H. W. BELLOWS, D.D.,
President U. S. Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—I beg leave to inclose $130, (one hundred and thirty dollars,) subscribed by the officers of this regiment, as per subscription paper inclosed.

We are grateful for the relief afforded by the agents of the Commission, among whom I would particularly mention Dr. Marsh, whose efficient action and whose conscientious boldness in preventing any misapplication of the bounty of the Commission, and whose ready and unwearied humanity, were peculiarly noteworthy.

Wishing to your noble charity every success, but yet more fervently hoping that soon its labors may be needless,

I remain, dear sir,

Very truly yours,

H. L. WAYLAND,
Chaplain 7th Conn.

Extract from a Letter from Dr. GEO. A. BLAKE, Inspector at New Orleans, La.

NEW ORLEANS, *Oct.* 16, 1863.

* * * * The other day I supplied deficiencies occasioned by the neglect of some officer, that could be supplied from no other source. The medical department decided to try an experiment—a sea-voyage for convalescents. One hundred and twenty-five soldiers were selected to make a trip to New York and return, on the "Evening Star." The officers of these men left them at Convalescent Camp, without their descriptive rolls, and that being the basis of every issue, no Quartermaster would furnish them even the necessaries of life, much less its comforts. Col. Beckwith, U. S. A., commanding defences of New Orleans, asked me to furnish the men with whatever articles were indispensable for their health and comfort. Accordingly, I visited the barracks—the men were paraded, an inspection made, and their several wants ascertained. I delivered stores to the officer in command, which were distributed to the men aboard ship. The men generally were in a sad plight, without shirts, socks, or blankets, and with thoroughly ventilated pants! Had there been no U. S. Sanitary Commission to give them these substantial comforts, woolen shirts, drawers, socks, quilts, blankets, pants, &c., I believe the experiment of sending feeble, shivering convalescents to a northern latitude, at this season of the year, would have been less productive of good.

Two days ago I received a telegram from

the Medical Director of the 19th Army Corps, at New Iberia, La., to forward, if possible, some woolen shirts and drawers. I sent at once about four hundred. * * * I inclose a communication to the "Stamford (Conn.) Advocate," of Sept. 25, received from some one unknown to me.

"MR. EDITOR—There is in our village a society called Soldiers' Aid Society. In its present plan I believe auxiliary to the Sanitary Commission, U. S. A. Within the past eleven months I have had large opportunities of watching the practical workings of this institution in one of its outposts, and think perhaps a plain statement of a few facts, as I have learned them, might afford encouragement to the ladies engaged in it.

"My first acquaintance with the Sanitary Commission came through a small pamphlet, sent me by its agent, soon after our arrival at Camp Parapet. Following up the invitation contained in it, I made the acquaintance of its agent, and found that through him I could obtain, without circumlocution, the essentials for the housekeeping department of a military hospital, whether in active campaign, or guard duty, or the more settled condition of post, or city hospital, and whether the patients were suffering from disease incident to the locality in which they were situated, or from wounds received in battle. And, Mr. Editor, I wish to bear testimony to the fact that, in all these various conditions, the Sanitary Commission furnishes to the suffering soldier just that kind of delicacy or substantial which a judicious mother or wife would furnish if they had opportunity. I have seen empty old buildings, as by magic, assume in a day the air of comfort and order of arrangement of long-established city hospitals. Not soon shall I cease to warm over the recollection of some of these transformations. For example, men to the number of several hundreds, after the fight at Bisland, were brought to Berwick City in flat-boats, skiffs, and little steamers, wounded in every conceivable manner. They had received all the attention that good medical skill could afford amid the din and smoke of actual conflict, but were so dirty, black, and uncomfortable, as not to be recognized by their most intimate friends, until the renovating hands of tender nurses had washed away their blood and dust, and put on them and their beds clean clothes; all which, not excepting a piece of soap or a row of pins, were furnished by the *model department* of the Gulf, and the Sanitary Commission, sent thence eighty miles over a slow railroad, but in time to do all I have intimated. And I must say, that he who had looked, on the morning of April 18, at the interior of that deserted building in Berwick City, store below and tenements above, its large and small rooms, dusty, cobwebbed, gloomy, and also at the large hall of an adjoining building in the same condition, making in all a floor area of about 1,500 yards, had seen on the following morning every available yard of this space covered with wounded men, *our country's braves*, suffering anguish such as a wounded soldier only knows, without the shadow of comfort; on the same evening again seen all these sufferers arranged in trim rows, on iron bedsteads and good mattresses, clean wounds, clean bandages, clean lint, dressings, &c., clean shirts, clean drawers, clean sheets and pillow-cases, clean wards, with towels, and bowls, and brushes, and rows of pins in their places, tables supplied with vases of flowers, pitchers of ice-water, tumblers, bowls, vials, packages, all in their places, and the poor sufferers sleeping quietly under their musquito nets, all order, all cleanliness, all beautiful, at post hospital No. 2. Anybody, I say, that saw, as I saw, all this, and was not moved with deep gratitude towards the institution that furnished the means for all this magic change, is a character for a cage in a menagerie. This post hospital, No. 2, is but an illustration of Nos. 1, 3, 4, at Berwick City, at the same time, also at Brashear City at different times; also at Lafourche Crossing. In short, it but illustrates what may be at every hospital, extemporized or appointed, in the field or in the city, all over the Department of the Gulf, as no doubt is the case in every department; and if all or any of this is wanting in any case, it is due to negligence on the part of officers in charge of hospitals, not to want of means furnished by Medical Department and Sanitary Commission.

"In conclusion, I would say to friends of the soldier everywhere, send your gifts through the Sanitary Commission, always. They are carefully husbanded and judiciously distributed to those who need them most. Not, as often happens when otherwise sent, some articles accumulating to the extent of a nuisance, in one place, while other articles of real comfort are entirely absent; all unequal and unsatisfactory, to say nothing of the greater liability of the articles sent irregularly being devoured by the army gulls, men, sometimes officers, having no interest in the hospital, through whose hands they must pass.

"God bless the Sanitary Commission, is ever the exclamation of those who know it best.

"W. H. TROWBRIDGE,

"*Ex-Surgeon, 23d Regt. C. V.*"

MEMPHIS, Oct. 18, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

Sec'y Western Dep't U. S. Sanitary Com.:

DEAR SIR—Yours of the 28th ult. arrived here two days since, during my absence at Corinth. I paid a flying visit to this and other points along the railroad, finding no small demand for sanitary stores, especially vegetables. This demand was, as I anticipated, greatly enhanced by the presence in the district of Gen. Sherman's Army Corps on its way to the Department of the Cumberland. At Lagrange this corps had deposited over 100 sick, and at Corinth 300 and more. Besides which were still a small number with each regiment, to remain until the troops should move across the country. The advance of the corps was at Iuka. The 200 barrels of vegetables shipped to Corinth by me one week ago to-day, arrived in time to be largely shared by this corps, and did the maximum amount of service. The only thing I regret is, that the 200 had not been 1,000. It will still be some days before these troops get entirely out of my reach, and after that, many a weary day for them before they get within reach of sanitary stores again. The sick they leave behind will receive prompt attention by the United States Sanitary Commission. But I must have at once a larger amount of stores here. Already the fine large cargo left by the Clara Bell is run low; the vegetables reduced to 20 barrels. We have distributed within the week 500 barrels. I send this morning to Helena 40 barrels on the earnest request of Dr. Weeks, backed by Dr. Fithian, who has gone on an exploration to Little Rock. This leaves me the 20 barrels aforesaid. I shall clearly be compelled to make another draft on the Clara Bell when she arrives, although I had designed to send the whole of her next cargo below. But the demand is lively in this district, aside from the addition created by the movement referred to. Our latest weekly disbursements will show some solid figures. Disbursement reports are forwarded up to last Wednesday; Hospital Directory to the 10th inst.

I saw Surgeon-General Hammond and had a moment's conversation with him. He is undoubtedly restored to favor, although the fact seems not to have transpired yet. He issued an order while here for the erection of one large hospital to be provided with from 1,200 to 1,300 beds. On its completion it is understood that the other general hospitals in this city will be vacated and abandoned. Such purpose being subject, of course, to the modifying changes in the features of war. The work on the new hospital is to commence without delay. Meanwhile, I want potatoes and onions, &c., &c., for immediate use.

Canned milk and canned beef are entirely gone; ditto bedquilts and sheets; ditto shirts and drawers, minus a few. Now or never, let these come.

Yours respectfully,

H. A. WARRINER.

PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

The following correspondence relative to the forwarding supplies of clothing, &c., to soldiers confined in Richmond, was suggested by the report made to the Commission by Dr. McDonald and Mr. Scandlin. These gentlemen, the one an Inspector and the other a Relief Agent of the Commission, were taken prisoners near Emmettsburg, Md., just after the battle of Gettysburg, while they were on their way to the Army of the Potomac with supplies. They were taken to Richmond, and were inmates of "Libby Prison" and "Castle Thunder" for nearly three months. While there they sought every opportunity to benefit their fellow-prisoners, and to get such information as would be of service to those who should hereafter be there confined. They were assured that all supplies sent to the proper authorities would be applied according to the desires of those sending them.

Former experience had given confidence to the Commission that these assurances could be relied on, as invoices previously sent, of clothes and medicines, had reached the parties to whom they were sent. A new basis of exchange required that the present *status* should be inquired into. Hence the correspondence here given:

SANITARY COMMISSION,

CENTRAL OFFICE, 244 F STREET,

Washington, D. C., September 29, 1863.

GENERAL—I am informed by Dr. Alex. McDonald, of the Commission, late a pris-

oner at Richmond, (and who, with his companions in captivity, Rev. Mr. Scandlin, also of this Commission, and Leonard Brink, are so much indebted to you for your efforts towards their release, and your personal kindness to them while passing into our lines,) that he was told by Dr. Wilkins, Surgeon in charge C. S. Military Prison Hospital No. 1, (Libby Prison,) that if supplies of clothing, bedding, and reading matter should be sent to his (Dr. Wilkins') care, he would guarantee their distribution among the Union prisoners; and that Capt. G. W. Alexander, A. A. G. and A. P. M., Castle Thunder, made a similar promise as regards reading matter, within his own precincts.

From the statement of Dr. McDonald and Mr. Scandlin it appears that the above supplies are greatly needed by our men now imprisoned there, and that a distribution of such would be of inestimable benefit to them. It is questionable, I suppose, whether, even if once passed within the enemy's lines, they would be permitted to reach their destination; but this Commission would gladly take the merest chance of their doing so, and would willingly risk any trouble and expense in forwarding them over our own lines, provided such a course should involve no violation of military rules and exigencies on our side. Of this you are the judge. In behalf of our brave and unfortunate officers and soldiers now pining, amid want, squallor, and mental inoccupation, in the noisome prisons of the enemy, will you kindly favor the Commission with your decision on this point? If favorable to the project, any suggestions you may see fit to make towards its accomplishment will be welcomed, and, if possible, acted upon.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Asst. Sec'y.

Gen'l S. A. Meredith,
Comm'r for Exchange of Prisoners,
Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

Office Commissioner for Exchange,
Fortress Monroe, Va., October 1, 1863.

Alfred J. Bloor, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.:

Sir—On making application to the rebel authorities, I am informed that blankets, clothing, &c., forwarded to our prisoners in Richmond will be duly delivered to them. I yesterday forwarded a statement to this effect to the Commissary-General of Prisoners at Washington. I do not think there is any doubt as to our prisoners receiving what is sent. I would respectfully suggest that you obtain permission from the Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, to send these things; that obtained, I can assure you nothing would give me more pleasure than to forward them, if sent to my care to this place. Very respectfully,

Your obed't serv't,
S. A. MEREDITH,
Brig. Gen'l and Com'r for Exchange.

Sanitary Commission,
Central Office, 244 F Street,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 2*d*, 1863.

Sir—I have the honor to transmit copies of a correspondence between Gen'l S. A. Meredith and myself with reference to this Commission forwarding supplies for the use of Union soldiers now in the hands of the enemy in Libby Prison and Castle Thunder, and to respectfully request your sanction for so doing.

I may add to the information contained in the within correspondence, that Messrs. McDonald and Scandlin—(who were captured by the enemy on the 5th of July, while pushing on from Frederick City to Gettysburg with supplies from the stores of this Commission for the sick and wounded, and were only released last week)—have had, during their nearly three months' imprisonment, first in Libby Prison and afterwards in Castle Thunder, the amplest opportunities for testing in person, as their worn frames and shattered health too plainly testify, the insufferable hardships and humiliations endured by the loyalists in these places of confinement, and for judging to what an extent relief might be afforded by the appliances of this Commission. I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Ass't Sec'y.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON CITY,
October 1863.

MR. ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Ass't Sec'y San'y Com., 244 *F Street, Washington, D. C.:*

SIR—In reply to your letter of the 2d instant, transmitting correspondence with General Meredith in reference to forwarding sanitary aupplies and reading matter to the Union prisoners at Richmond, the Secretary of War directs me to convey to you his consent for the transmission of the articles named through the lines as requested.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAS. A. HARDIE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

The following articles were sent to Richmond, in accordance with this agreement, on the 19th inst.:

600 Woolen Shirts.
600 Canton Flannel Drawers.
600 pairs Woolen Socks.
1000 Handkerchiefs.
2 cases Reading Matter.

That these stores have been delivered to the Confederate authorities we have assurance in the following letter:—

NORFOLK, VA., Oct. 26th, 1863.

DR. L. H. STEINER,
Acting Associate Sec'y San. Com.:

MY DEAR SIR—I called on Gen'l Meredith yesterday, and ascertained that our Richmond supplies had gone forward all right. As soon as Gen'l M. has been notified that the supplies sent by the Government have been received, he is authorized to send whatever Gen'l Dow may think necessary for the comfort of our men on Belle Island and in Richmond. The Gen'l thinks that it will hardly be necessary for the San. Com. to send any more clothing, as the Government has authorized him to supply whatever is needed in that way, but to confine ourselves to articles of food, delicacies, &c. Very respectfully yours,
JAMES GALL, JR., *Relief Agent.*

Letters to prisoners at Richmond should be of one page, sent open, to care of Brig. Gen. S. A. Meredith, Commissioner for Exchange, Fortress Monroe, Va.

SELECTIONS.

Extracts from a Chapter on WATER in SURGEON-GENERAL HAMMOND'S TREATISE ON HYGIENE.

Drinking Waters.—The only waters which are fit for drinking (excluding from this head the mineral waters, which are properly medicinal) are rain water, river water, and spring or well water.

A water to be suitable for this purpose should be free from any considerable quantity of organic or mineral constituents, and consequently colorless, and without any peculiar odor or taste. At 30° Fahrenheit and 30 inches of the barometer one hundred volumes of water contain about five volumes of air. The large quantity of water imbibed by an individual renders it a matter of great importance that substances of a deleterious character should not be present, or if they are, that they should be capable of being readily removed.

The army surgeon is frequently called upon to decide as to the fitness of water for the use of the troops, both for drinking and washing, and he should therefore be enabled to make a correct decision, and to suggest the means that may be available for the purification of such water as requires it. For these purposes very few appliances, in the way of apparatus and tests, are required.

All waters of the class under consideration, except rain water, contain lime and chlorides, and frequently other mineral substances, in solution. The lime is in combination with either carbonic or sulphuric acid, or both, and the chlorides are those of sodium, magnesium, or potassium. It is probable that so far from being injurious, these matters, when not present in too great proportion, are rather beneficial to the organism than otherwise. When, however, they exist in large quantity, they produce intestinal disturbance, and the lime salts undoubtedly give rise to calculi in the kidneys or bladder. River water is also often, as has been said, loaded with other impurities. Some of these are of such a character as to cause serious diseases in those who use the water in which they are found, and are sometimes so abundant as to be destructive to the fish living in them.

The earthy matters which are so abundant in some of our western river waters almost invariably cause diarrhœa in those who are unaccustomed to their use, though this effect gradually ceases to be produced if the drinking of the water is persisted in.

In the selection of sites for camps, hospitals, barracks, etc,, the medical officer is often consulted with reference to the char-

acter of the water. In the field it is frequently impossible to camp troops in positions which afford good drinking water, but in the location of hospitals and permanent works this end can generally be insured. It should be recollected that no one sanitary element is of more importance than the one under consideration. I have known stations selected without the least regard to the character of the water; where this was so loaded with saline matters that the men were almost constantly affected with diarrhœa, or so contaminated with organic substances that putrefaction commenced in a few hours after it was brought to the quarters. * * * *

Organic matters are frequently present in water, and give it qualities which render it deleterious. They may be either gaseous or morphological, as portions of decomposing vegetable or animal remains, infusoria, algæ, fungi, etc. Water in which such matters are found readily becomes putrescent, and is most noxious to the health of those who use it as a drink, producing diarrhœa and fever. * *

Examination of Drinking Water.—By ascertaining the specific gravity of the water to be tested, a rough idea of the *quantity of solids* contained in it can be obtained. Kirwan gives the following formula for this purpose, which he states will generally indicate the proportion within one or two per cent.

Deduct from the specific gravity of the water the number 1000, and multiply the difference by 1-4, the product will represent the quantity of solid contents. It gives the weight of the salts in their most desiccated state, and consequently freed from their water of crystallization. The weight of fixed air must be also included.

Thus, if the water under examination possess a specific gravity of 1015, the 1000 subtracted from this sum leaves 15, which multiplied by 1-4, gives 21, the number of parts of solid matter in 1000 parts of the water. A better plan is to evaporate to dryness a certain amount of water, and to weigh the solid residue.

Sulphuric acid is most readily detected by solution of chloride of barium, by the action of which a heavy white precipitate of sulphate of baryta is produced.

Chlorhydric acid is indicated by solution of nitrate of silver, by which a flaky precipitate of chloride of silver, soluble in liquor ammoniæ, is thrown down.

Sulphuretted hydrogen, if present, forms, with solution of acetate of lead, a brown precipitate of sulphuret of lead. In water containing *lead*, sulphuretted hydrogen, when passed through it, gives a like precipitate.

Lime gives, with oxalate of ammonia, a white precipitate of oxalate of lime.

Magnesia is indicated by liquor ammoniæ, which separates it as a light flaky precipitate.

Iron forms, with tincture of galls, a black precipitate of tannate of iron; with ferrocyanide of potassium, a dark-blue precipitate of ferrocyanide of iron is formed.

Organic Constituents.—The organic constituents of water when not in solution are readily detected by means of the microscope.

Organic matters, when in solution, can be most satisfactorily discovered by means of solution of permanganate of potassa. This salt gives a bright-red color to the distilled water in which it is dissolved, which hue is entirely removed on subjecting it to the action of organic matter. We have thus a valuable means of detecting impurities which would otherwise escape observation. The method of proceeding is very simple. A drop of saturated solution of permanganate of potassa, or of Condy's disinfectant fluid, (which consists of a solution of alkaline permanganates,) added to a half pint of distilled water, gives to it a beautiful pink color, which will remain permanent for a long time; but if the same quantity be added to any ordinary drinking water, the permanganate is decomposed by the organic matter present, and the characteristic color is destroyed as soon as found. If there be much organic matter present, more of the solution will be required to produce any color at all; and, by the quantity used to cause the formation of a permanent pink tinge, we draw our conclusions relative to the purity of the water examined. The presence of minute particles of organic matter is also readily indicated by this reagent. * * * *

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

[From Prof. Jacob's Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania.]

This battle of three days will compare in magnitude and far-reaching consequences, with any of the great battles of modern times. In the battle of Waterloo, the Allies had 72,000, the French 80,000 men; in this the rebels had 90,000, the Federals about 60,000 men. The British had 186 cannon, the French 252; the rebels had upwards of 200, and we an equal number. The Allies lost 20,000 in killed and wounded; the French 40,000 in killed, wounded, prisoners, and deserted; the Federals lost about 4,000 killed, 12,000 wounded and 4,000 prisoners, or in all about 20,000; whilst the rebels lost 5,500 killed, 21,000 wounded, and 9,000 prisoners and 4,000 stragglers and deserters, or a total of about 40,000. The proportion of men and of losses in both battles is nearly the same.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., President, New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President, Washington, D. C.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary, New York City.
George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
G. W. Cullom, U. S. A.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

The office of the Directory will be open daily from 8 o'clock, A. M., to 8 o'clock, P. M., and in urgent cases applicants ringing the door-bell will be received at any hour of the night.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army. The hospital statistics in this department of the Sanitary Commission are very complete and exact, and daily prove of incalculable value to the soldiers, their friends and relatives.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C.W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Sup't.

AGENCY FOR PENSIONS.

William F. Bascom, Pension Agent, Washington, D. C.

HOSPITAL CARS.

Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M. D., Surgeon in charge.
Between Louisville and Murfreesboro'—Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in charge.

SANITARY STEAMERS.

New Dunleith on the Mississippi River, and Elizabeth on the Potomac River.

THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 15, 1863. No. 2.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 10,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

THE LESSON OF THE REPORTS.

The reports from Chattanooga, which we publish in this number of the BULLETIN, throw so much light both on the value of the work which the Commission is doing and of the difficulties with which it has to contend, that we ask for a careful perusal of them, as the best mode of appealing for public sympathy and support. There could not be a better illustration of our relations with the army than is afforded by the state of things which existed there after the battle of Chickamauga. The occupation of Lookout Mountain by the enemy left our army dependent for all its supplies on a common and very bad wagon-road, nearly eighty miles long, which incessant use and heavy rains soon rendered all but impassable for wheels. This at once placed the whole force on short rations, and of course condemned numbers of sick and wounded to death. It cannot be too clearly remembered that when a crisis of this sort occurs in military operations, the first duty of a general is not to take care of those of his men who are disabled, but of those who are fit for duty. His business is to bring the campaign to a successful issue at all costs, and if he can do so and at the same time have proper attention paid to those who have been stricken down by battle or disease, humanity requires that he should do it. But if attention to the sick and wounded is at all likely to interfere with the proper conduct of the military operation, the saddest, sternest, but most imperative rule of war requires that his whole resources in transportation, and in everything else, should be devoted rather to keeping the healthy in health than to restoring the non-effectives. Ammunition, and bread for those who can use it, are the prime requisites of an army under all circumstances; and when an army gets into difficulties like those of our army at Chattanooga, they only become tenfold more requisite than ever. At a crisis of this sort, the medical department finds itself too often paralyzed for want of stores and transportation. The whole energies of the military authorities are devoted to keeping the ranks full, and in forwarding reinforcements and munitions; so that it may be said that the surgeon finds that as his wants increase the means of supplying them diminish.

All these difficulties have been aggravated in the West by the nature of the country in which the operations are carried on, and by the immense distances at which the armies frequently find themselves from their base—distances which have had no parallel in European warfare, or only in the campaign of 1812 in Russia. Instances have occurred of troops having been dependent for all their supplies upon a line of three hundred miles of wagon-road. And these long lines, it must be remembered, generally lie through regions desolated by two years of war and incessantly harried by guerrillas, in which subsistence, forage, and often even the shelter of a roof, are wanting. That, under such circumstances, the medical department of the army should

frequently find itself unable to meet the demands upon it, is nothing wonderful; the wonder would be if it did not. When the fierce shocks and sharp blows of war come, and the fate of the whole army, or the fate of the cause itself is at stake, the hospital is naturally and inevitably sacrificed to the field.

It is the business and the aim of the Sanitary Commission to gather together from every quarter the money and the stores contributed by those who, from their position, can play no part in the war beyond seeking to alleviate its misery, who have nothing to do with military exigencies, and can therefore pay undivided heed to those of humanity; to keep these stores and money in its hands and follow the army with them in its march, husband them until a victory, or defeat, or retreat has flung a load of suffering on the regular departments which they are unable to cope with, and then to step in and as far as possible fill up all deficiencies. This seems a simple matter, but it is not by any means. After all the work of collecting stores from every corner of the Union has been accomplished, even after they have hurried down to what seems to be the very edge of the battle-field, comes the hardest task of all—that of getting them conveyed to the exact spot where they are needed, to the very hospital where the sick are struggling for life on hard-tack and bad water, or to the very field on which the wounded lie starving and untended in their torn and bloody clothes. The difficulties of transportation, even for the medical department in our army, are immense; and they are of course still greater for the Commission. There ought unquestionably to be separate transportation provided for the former. It ought not to be dependent on the quartermaster for its wagons, to have its sole means of bringing up its stores liable to curtailment or total stoppage every time there is any unusual demand for wagons and mules on the part of other branches of the service. But then, as we have already remarked, it is more than doubtful whether it would be possible to organize means of transport for it which would under no circumstances be exposed to the pressure of that necessity which is, after all, the supreme law of an army. What general would agree under all circumstances to keep his hands off wagons which might save him from a disastrous retreat, even if their seizure and conversion to other uses involved the death of thousands of wounded men? The Sanitary Commission is also constantly forced in the West to rely on the quartermaster for its means of sending forward its stores, and exposed to precisely the same risks and delays as everybody else. Let the necessities of the wounded be ever so great, its means of supplying their wants ever so abundant, it has to take its chance of reaching them in precisely the same way as the regular medical directors. The accident which happened to the seventeen wagons which were captured while under Mr. Redding's charge, furnishes an excellent illustration of the obstacles which have to be overcome in the West. Its help was probably never more sorely needed than at the moment that this supply was going forward, and yet one swoop of the rebel cavalry converted to the use of drunken troopers stores that would probably have saved the lives of hundreds and hastened the recovery of thousands.

The robbery of our stores by the teamsters is one more proof of the hundreds we have had in the course of the war, of the imprudence, to use no stronger term, of employing civilians to take charge of the army wagons. The teamsters are simply hired men, and are not subject to military discipline. The wagon-master who accompanies the train has no authority over them except that of an employer over his servants—and the value of this, in time of war in the West, may be readily imagined. They belong, however, generally to a drunken and reckless class, and burden themselves with very little responsibility about the property of the Government committed to their charge. When one remembers that any one of these men has it in his power, by upsetting his wagon on the road, to delay the advance of a train, it may be a mile or two in length, for half a day, and thus perhaps endanger the safety of the whole army —and instances of this have actually occurred—one cannot help regretting deeply that some effort has not been made to organize a military force for the transport service. In no European army is the bag-

gage committed to the custody of civilians. Every one of them has a corps enlisted for this duty, and officered by picked men. The Military Train in France, and the Land Transport Corps in England, are considered amongst the most arduous and responsible branches of the service. It will be observed that the worst that could befall the scoundrels who gorged themselves on the road to Chattanooga upon the stores, for want of which the sick and wounded were perishing, was dismissal from their employment. But it will be readily imagined that, to men who could be guilty of such an act, this was no very severe punishment.

The thing which our agents in the West most urgently demand is vegetables; this is the great want in all the hospitals, and the want of them is a serious bar to recovery in certain kinds of disease. We beg the attention of our readers to the remarks in our reports on this subject. Vegetables are of course amongst the things that are not procurable at the seat of war, and they have to come from the Northern States, mainly from the vicinity of the large towns. Donations of them in sufficient quantities are certainly not to be expected from the growers, and they are therefore, in the dried form, amongst the supplies for which money is absolutely necessary. Mr. Bloor's letter to Miss Collins, which will be found in another column, indicates very clearly what our wants are likely to be during the coming winter. It must not be forgotten, however, by those who read it, that let us have ever so large quantities of the articles for which he calls, the distribution of them still remains to be done. They have to be sent in the track of the army over hundreds of miles of wasted country, gathered together at depots all across the continent, and which have to be carried by some means or other to those who most need them; this is the hardest part of our task, and for it money is absolutely necessary; and the larger the donations of supplies the more money we need.

The Commission cannot receive packages for individuals, for here, as in its general relief service, it must bestow the peoples' aid where it is most needed.

THE RICHMOND PRISONS.

The following report from Dr. McDonald is very interesting, from the light it throws on the condition of the Richmond prisoners, which, judging from recent accounts, has since become worse than he describes them:

WASHINGTON, *Sept. 25th*, 1863.

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER,

Army of Potomac:

DEAR SIR—My report of proceedings since July 1st will necessarily be composed mainly of brief extracts from the meagre diary which has been preserved, and such statements as may seem fitting; nearly all our papers having been lost or destroyed while we were on the march.

July 1st.—At Washington, awaiting a chance for a safe forward movement, military men assuring us that the roads to Gettysburg were not in a safe condition for travel, without an escort.

2d.—News of a battle reached us during the evening, and our time till 12.30 A.M. was employed in loading goods on the cars for Westminster.

3d.—Started at 1 P.M. with Mr. Scandlin, Mr. Gall, two teams and drivers, and a negro boy; reached Rockville at 6 P.M., where we fed and rested our horses, and from whence we started between 8 and 9 P. M. for Frederick, at which place we arrived at 5.15 A.M. of July 4th, after having traveled all night.

The same evening, at 6 P. M., Mr. Gall started with an empty four-mule team and driver for Westminster, there to load from the cars and proceed to the field; Mr. Scandlin and myself, with a load of stores, driver and black boy, made all possible speed towards Gettysburg; 11 P.M. passed General Kilpatrick's cavalry at Mechanicstown, where we halted for the night.

Sunday, 5th.—At 8 A.M. started for Gettysburg, and about 9.30 A.M. were met by a squad of cavalry wearing U. S. uniforms and equipments, who commanded us to halt, and after inquiring who we were, told us to "consider ourselves prisoners of war," which we soon found, by the numbers of graybacks crowding around us, to be too true. These new friends (?) were all eager to show their affection by appropriating

some part of our property each to himself, without any regard to our comfort or convenience; truly, we had "fallen among thieves." General Stuart appropriated the horses, wagon and supplies; a quartermaster laid siege to our saddle horses; the equipments and light articles were soon distributed among the men, and then personal property was demanded; even the Surgeon of the Brigade, who had heard our explanation to General Stuart, and understood in what service we were engaged, came to the rear and haggled with some of the men for possession of a saddle and bridle taken from one of our horses, as he said, "for the purpose of presenting it to a friend in Richmond." His entire soul was wrapped in desire for plunder, and we were consoled for part of our loss by knowing that his grasping spirit had been foiled, and he could not get a share of the spoils. These changes of ownership were very soon accomplished, and we were started over the mountains in the direction of Hagerstown; but towards evening, finding the road in that direction blocked by Union cavalry, we were marched by an unfrequented road to near Smithstown, where a smart artillery duel came off, and so soon as darkness came on a guide was procured who led us over an unfrequented and very rough road to the town of Lytersburg, where we were turned in to grass at 1.30 A. M., and rested three hours; then were marched about a mile, found a check in front, and were moved back to the centre of the town; halted, and here received food from the *Union* citizens, who gave whatever they could spare, and we ate while General Stuart was endeavoring to find an outlet of escape for his forces. At length we were transferred to the care of another commander, and started for Hagerstown; after proceeding about four miles, the road was again found to be blocked by cavalry; we were marched back three miles, and camped till the right of way should be settled. About dark were again "en route," and marched through Hagerstown, to within one mile of Williamsport, where we were encamped at 2.30 A. M. of July 7, and just before dark of the afternoon of this day we received a ration of half a pint of flour and two ounces of beef, but no means for cooking were provided, therefore we ate of unleavened bread and toasted beef; collected a few rails and endeavored to roost as dryly as possible during the rainy night. During the march from Lytersburg Moses had been moved to the rear, and at Williamsport he was placed with other contrabands.

Wednesday, 8th.—Were moved back one-quarter mile to camp with privates; we preferring to remain with them, as there were prospects of our becoming of use in various ways, especially in attending the wounded, of whom there were quite a number. Rained all day and night till 12 M. During the afternoon received another ration similar to that of the previous day; disposed of it in like manner. Wrote to Col. Mayo, requesting an interview with General Pickett, hoping he would release us when our position was known to him, but received no answer.

Thursday, 9th.—Started at 1 P. M. for the ferry, but finding the facilities for transportation were limited, a majority of the men—ourselves included—were sent back to camp. Mr. Scandlin went with me to call on General Pickett during the evening; his reception of us was rather frigid and decidedly formal, he communicating with us by means of his adjutant, and deciding that we must go on to Richmond. On complaining of the insufficient quantity and poor quality of food the men were receiving, we were furnished with an order for more food for ourselves, and a promise of more on the morrow for the men. Our extra rations consisted of two or three small hoe-cakes, and a *knuckle bone* of boiled ham, (all the officer had to give us,) but our men did not get their extra, nor always their regular allowance; however, they got plenty of promises of full rations after crossing to the other side of the Potomac.

Friday, 10th.—Moved to the river at 3 A. M., crossed at 6.45, and halted till 12.30 P. M. The promise of more rations was not kept; their wagon trains had been cut off by our cavalry, and they could not get supplies forward; would give us more when we got down the valley. The faith in these promises was very much weakened by so many similar ones still remaining unfulfill-

ed. At 12.30 P. M. commenced a terrible march, with an escort of cavalry, artillery, and infantry, for fear of recapture or a stampede; the first hour we traveled nearly six miles under a scorching sun, guards and prisoners continually falling by the roadside from the effects of heat and exhaustion. General Imboden, finding that his own men were suffering much more than the prisoners, and that he would soon be left without a guard, rode to the head of the column after the first hour's march and moderated the rate of travel. During the remainder of the day our pace was much slower and more regular till we camped at 9.30 P. M. two miles beyond Martinsburg. While passing through Martinsburg the inhabitants expressed their sympathy by kind words and more kind donations of food, in spite of the curses, threats, and even blows of our chivalrous cavalry guards, some of whom even went so far in their brutality as to strike women for giving us bread and water.

After we were encamped, some of the officers rode back to the town and invited the inhabitants to bake bread for us, and many families, we were told, worked all night preparing food for us, which was loaded into wagons next morning and sent to *Lee's Army!*

Saturday, 11th.—Started at 6 A. M. for Bunker's Hill, where we were halted, received and cooked rations, and at 6 P. M. commenced a night march over a terribly rough road to camp two miles north of Winchester, arriving at 2 A.M. of the 12th. Our escort was vexed with having to guard prisoners during a night march, especially the cavalry, who were exceedingly irascible, rough and uncourteous, striking the men with their sabres, and in some cases even placing their pistols at the heads of exhausted men and threatening to blow out their brains, generally ending by pricking the poor fellows with their sabres till they would rise in wrath and proceed on the tedious journey. Men and guards were this night completely exhausted.

Sunday, 12th.—Had a short interview with General Imboden, and explained to him our position; he "could not release us." We must go to Richmond, and from thence would certainly be sent home by the first flag of truce; meanwhile we would be permitted to board in and have the freedom of the city, and most assuredly would not be confined in prison. Told him the prisoners were exhausted, and could not go further without rest; he promised that we should only travel two miles that day, and that from thenceforth our marches should be short—not to exceed twelve or fifteen miles per day.

Were marched through Winchester in season to meet the inhabitants on their way home from church, and there was an evident desire to make as much display of their captives as was possible. Halted one mile beyond Winchester, where we received rations for three days, or till such time as we should reach Mt. Jackson; viz., one quart of flour and three quarters of a pound of fresh beef.

Monday, 13th.—In line at 6 A. M.; delayed by wagon trains on the road till 9.30 A. M. Had rained all night, and was still pouring in torrents; a bridge on the turnpike had been washed away during the night, necessitating a detour of four miles, on or through a dirt road and woods, in order to ford the stream at a safe place; this detour gave us two miles of double-quick march in mud and water ankle deep, then a tedious march till 7.30 P. M., when we encamped within one and a half miles of Strasburg, soaked through, cold, without shelter, exceedingly tired, almost discouraged, and with a prospect of passing a restless night in the rain and on wet ground.

Tuesday, 14th.—Started at 6 A. M., marched twenty-four miles without food, and camped at 7 P. M.

Wednesday, 15th.—Moving at 6 A.M. for Mt. Jackson and rations; camped at 9 A. M., expecting rations for three days in the same ratio as previously, but didn't get any. Left at 2 P. M., and reached camp south of New Market at 7.30 P.M.; drew and ate a ration. During the day met carriages containing a number of persons marked by badges on their hats, "Committee for the Relief of our Wounded," then proceeding to the battle-field. Remarked to them that we belonged to a somewhat similar organization of the North, but were then held as prisoners, and hoped they would

be more fortunate in their laudable endeavors to succor the distressed than we had been. They were "sorry" for us, and passed on.

Thursday, 16th.—Column was this day marched left in front, affording some rest for those who had thus far been in the rear, and giving them a better opportunity to purchase food of citizens, all of whom we found greedy for greenbacks, as well as the officers and soldiers; camped two miles south of Harrisonburg at 4 P.M., and after a heavy thunder-shower--during which we rested on our boots, sheltering our clothing as much as possible with our rubber blankets, which were still preserved—we were blessed with three crackers and a quarter of a pound of bacon.

Friday, 17th.—After a cold, restless night, were permitted to pay six dollars each for a ride of sixteen miles to a point within four miles of Staunton, where we camped at 4 P. M., and received our three crackers, with one-quarter pound of bacon. An order was issued this day forbidding the purchase of greenbacks by any of the citizens.

Saturday, 18th.—Moved at 6.30 A.M.; marched 5½ miles to a point one and a half miles beyond Staunton, where the men were relieved of their shelter-tents and rubber blankets, received a pint of flour and quarter pound of bacon, and were ordered to camp to await the arrival of cars for an onward move to Richmond.

Sunday, 19th.—Had an interview with Col. Smith, in charge of prisoners' guard, who assured us of our immediate release on reaching Richmond.

Monday, 20th.—At 7.30 A. M. proceeded to the cars, and embarked for Richmond, arriving in that city on the morning of the succeeding day, and being safely ensconced within the walls of Libby Prison at 4 A. M. of the 21st. On entering the Prison, Leonard Brink was assigned to the citizens' room, while Mr. Scandlin and myself were sent up stairs to an apartment (occupied by Union officers) about forty-five feet wide by one hundred and twenty-five in length, of which there were four in the building, each communicating with the other, and well filled, nearly six hundred officers being at that time confined in Libby. Soon found a bare spot of floor, and lay down for a short rest, having only a rubber blanket and Mr. Scandlin's overcoat for a bed. At daylight were awakened by the sounds of many feet, and found the room alive with human beings; and, as we afterwards learned, much to our discomfort, each conveying about on his person and in his clothing quite a stock of living beings.

Breakfast came during the morning, and proved to be nearly all the ration for twenty-four hours—one-half pound of bread and two ounces of boiled beef. This, with a pint of soup made from spoiled bacon and a little rice, was our daily allowance during the first two weeks of our incarceration, after which we were permitted to purchase vegetables, were furnished with cooking-stoves, and ordered to do our own cooking, which was a great improvement to our fare.

Our bed, as on the morning of our arrival, consisted of Mr. Scandlin's coat, a rubber blanket, and the clothes we were in the daily habit of wearing.

Vermin were plenty, and our most strenuous efforts failed to keep them in abeyance.

Water was brought from and retained all the peculiar characteristics of James River; there was generally a sufficient quantity, though occasionally the supply would be partially cut off, causing considerable vexation of spirit. The floors were well swept twice each day, and were washed once a week. The apartments were thoroughly fumigated as often as every alternate day, and most of the rooms were fairly ventilated.

Were detained in this Prison till the morning of August 10, on which day Rev. Josiah Peterkin called to see us, and offered to do all in his power for our release and comfort; and soon after his departure we were sent into the hospital, with an order that we be made as comfortable as possible until the arrival of the next flag of truce, when we were to be paroled and sent North.

Mr. Brengle and Leonard Brink were at this time brought from the citizens' room and placed in hospital with us. They were much emaciated from want of fresh air and sufficient diet, but soon recovered a part of their former flesh and elasticity of spirit.

While in the hospital, everything was done that circumstances would admit of being done for our comfort; the surgeons were gentlemanly, kind and attentive to our necessary requirements, doing all they could to modify the restraint of prison discipline, and to make us feel as contented as was possible. Remained in hospital till September 2d, at which time an order was issued for the removal of all citizens to Castle Thunder; and though Mr. Scandlin was at the time suffering with a scorbutic limb, and I was ill with dysentery, we were moved to the Castle just about dark, and placed in a damp, vacant room on the ground floor, without beds, blankets, or any conveniences whatever, there to remain as best we could till morning should reveal our whereabouts, for it was dark when we entered. The morning light revealed to us a room about forty by twenty feet, with two grated windows on one side, a grated door at one end, a tub partially full of dirty water, intended to be used for drink, another nearly full of the excrements of thirty-two persons, who had been confined there during the night, many of them suffering from diarrhœa; two or three sailors' chests, which some of our number had brought with them, and a squad of tired, emaciated men. Breakfast, a large piece of bread and 4 ounces of boiled meat, was served in this apartment, without any means having been adopted to purify the atmosphere or remove the noisome tubs, and then we were examined preparatory to being sent to different parts of the building, as fate and the inspector might decree. Mr. Scandlin succeeded in having all our party (four persons) placed in the same room, (I was too ill at the time to care where we went,) and the Commissary very kindly loaned me a mattress to keep my bones from the floor; the prisoners in the room with us were very kind, and my own party were unremitting in their care of me.

During our sojourn in Libby we had managed by means of letters, some of which are appended to this document, and messages, to keep the authorities aware of our confinement, but on reaching Castle Thunder all communication with the outer world seemed to be cut off. But, thanks to Mr. Scandlin's energy and perseverance, a way was found to make our presence felt, and permission was obtained for a personal interview with Commissioner Ould. At this time I was very lame, and the active duties devolved on Mr. S., who had partially recovered from his lameness, and he went to see the Commissioner; returned with a promise that we should be released and sent North by the next flag of truce boat that took prisoners; this was about the 10th of September, and we waited patiently as possible the arrival of a boat. About September 15th a boat came up, but went back without prisoners, and we were compelled to wait till the night of the 21st, when we moved to Libby, paroled "not to bear arms or perform any of the duties of a soldier until regularly exchanged," and were sent into the hospital to remain till morning. One of our number, Mr. A. F. Brengle, was retained, he having been captured while returning from Harper's Ferry, and the Commissioner deciding that he was not a regular employé of the Commission; that he was taken while in the act of relieving a beleaguered garrison, and therefore must remain for the present. Our colored boy, Moses Gardner, was left at Libby, the Confederate Commissioner refusing to release him. I learned from some of the prisoners that he had acknowledged to having been previously a slave.

Tuesday, September 22d.—At 5 A. M. were off for the cars, and were soon on the road to City Point, where we arrived at 11 A. M. Found that General Meredith had been part way down the river the previous day, but had very kindly returned to await the arrival of Gen'l Graham and our party, whom he welcomed in a true friendly spirit; his kind and thoughtful act of returning to City Point saved us a series of inconveniences, and hastened our arrival in Washington several hours. During the trip he was very attentive and courteous, expressing his warmth and depth of feeling not by words alone, but by impressive action.

At Fortress Monroe were greeted by Mr. Gall, (in his own words,) "the last employé of the Commission to part from us on our departure for, and the first to greet us on our return from, Richmond."

Wednesday, 23d.—Left Fortress Monroe

at 6.30 P.M.; arrived in Baltimore at 5.30 of the succeeding morning, whence, after a warm greeting from the agents of the Commission at that place, we proceeded to Washington, arriving about 12 M., and immediately reported at the Central Office.

Having secreted and secured our money from capture, we were enabled, by remaining with the privates during the march, to relieve some individual cases of suffering by furnishing food, by cheering the desponding and encouraging the weak; also by caring for the sick and wounded, so long as they remained with us. It has been our endeavor, during the entire term of imprisonment, to perform our duties as agents of the Commission whenever opportunities were presented; and we have not always waited for the work to come to us, but have endeavored to go to it.

The day succeeding our arrival at Libby, I dispatched a note to "Capt. Turner, Commandant of the Prison," requesting a personal interview with him; the request was granted the following morning, and I then detailed to him the objects for which we were sent out, the operations of the Sanitary Commission in times past, and the circumstances attending our capture, requesting his advice and influence in obtaining our release. By his advice, I immediately forwarded to Commissioner Ould, by the hands of Capt. Turner, a letter, dated July 31st, the substance of which is contained, as nearly as I am able to remember, in my letter to Lieut. Latouche, August 28th. Hearing no word from Mr. Ould, I sent another similar communication some days later to Gen'l Winder, and August 15th received a verbal message from Lieut. Latouche, then acting Commandant of the Prison, requesting a statement of our capture, which I sent immediately, and at the end of which I enumerated the amount of property taken with us. August 27th this statement was returned, endorsed, "*Get a complete statement of the details. The writer of the inclosed seems* MORE *troubled about his* PROPERTY *than his* LIBERTY. What say the others ?" or words very similar.

I sent the letter of August 28th to Lieut. Latouche in answer to the above, and inclosed in it an article cut from the *Philadelphia Enquirer* of July 22, entitled "Hospitals at Gettysburg." The next day received letter from Mr. Gall, of Aug. 27th, a copy of which accompanies the other documents, and immediately commenced collecting certificates, of which I transmit copies, also a statement of their disposition. We were not idle in sounding our trumpet in the call for Liberty, and but few days of our captivity passed without some of the Richmond officials being made aware of our presence in their citadel and capitol. I must add a few words of commendation for the patient, self-sacrificing zeal of my companions in captivity..

Mr. SCANDLIN proved to be all, and *more* than all he professed; constantly engaged in some good work, cheerful under the most adverse circumstances, ever ready to render aid and comfort to all in distress, he has become endeared not only to the agents of the Commission with whom he has been so long associated, but to most of the officers and men whom chance and the fortunes of war have placed in his path. He sought out the sick and inquiring, gave them freely, cheerfully, temporal and spiritual comfort at all times and in all seasons. He has proved himself to be an honest, faithful worker and a TRUE man, "the noblest work of God."

Mr. Brengle had been confined in the citizens' room from the time of reaching Richmond till August 10th—a period of about twenty days—had become much reduced in strength and size from the effects of hard fare and close confinement, yet was always cheerful, hopeful, and disposed to make the best of everything. It was with feelings of deep regret that we learned of the determination to hold him prisoner, even after our release. There is at present a faint hope of our being able to effect a special exchange for him soon.

Leonard Brink had also been confined with the citizens till the time of our removal to hospital, and his frame showed a decided want of fleshy covering when he joined us in our new quarters. Decent prison fare soon proved a benefit to him, and his patient, contented disposition aided greatly in restoring him to something like his former dimensions.

Hoping the results of this expedition

may prove of benefit to the cause for which we are laboring, with many thanks to the several members of the Commission who have labored so assiduously in obtaining our release, and with the sincere hope that there may never again be cause for such exertions.

WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE NEED.

SANITARY COMMISSION,
CENTRAL OFFICE, 244 F ST.,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 3, 1863.

DEAR MISS COLLINS—The time is at hand when the chill autumn nights, to be followed by the frosts and snows of winter, will take the place of the heats of summer, and the cry of the army patients and surgeons will be for warm clothing and bedding, instead of for cotton garments, mosquito netting and fans. However thankful we may be for the successes of the Union arms, and however certain of their eventual triumph, there seems to be no sound reason for believing that the war will end very speedily; and, while it lasts, we may be sure that the women of the country will insist on their privilege of supplementing, in articles of comfort and delicacies suitable for the sick and wounded in hospital, the necessaries which Government so liberally provides for their husbands, lovers, sons and brothers in the field. While recognizing this, our experience during the last two winters reminds us of the necessity of preparing in season for the extensive calls which will soon commence, and which will continue throughout the winter—for warm clothing and bedding, quilts and blankets, woolen under-clothing and socks, will, judging by the past, be the articles of this kind most in demand; after these, bed and pillow-ticks, warm thick dressing gowns or wrappers, slippers, sheets, pillow-cases, towels and handkerchiefs. Of eatables, the chief demand will doubtless be, as heretofore, for stimulants of every kind; jellies and farinaceous food, dried fruits and preparations of beef, milk and vegetables.

I inclose with this a schedule showing the amount of stock in the Washington depots, at this date, of these and other articles most in demand. In a parallel column is shown their aggregated amount in the storehouses of our branches in Philadelphia, New York and Boston, according to the latest weekly reports furnished by them to this office. By this you will perceive that our stock of blankets, quilts, woolen drawers, bed-ticks, pillow-ticks, wrappers, dried fruit, farina, stimulants, and jellies, is very low; and that, so far as most of the articles are concerned, the same is true of the stock of most of our branches. You will not fail to observe that appearances indicate a return of our old trouble in collecting woolen drawers in quantities sufficient to match the woolen shirts; for while we have on hand 7,978 of the latter, we have only 440 of the former. In view of this indication, according as it does with our past experience on this head, I would suggest the propriety of your calling special attention among your correspondents to the fact, and of requesting them to organize their sewing labors so as to secure proportions of shirts and drawers more nearly equal. You will also observe that we have on hand but 20 pillow-ticks, 20 sponges, 3 bottles of gin and 3 of brandy; while our branches have none of any of them; that we have but 4 wrappers, and 3 barrels of dried fruit; and that the united stock of this depot and those of our branches is of the following articles, only: blankets 401, abdominal bandages 290, bed-ticks 580; (we had yesterday an order from the army of the Potomac for 500 bed-ticks.)

Your experience has doubtless led you to the same conclusion as my own, namely: that for our supplies of made-up dry-goods, by which I refer to quilts, under-clothing, socks, &c., and of made-up eatables—I mean jellies, preserves, pickles, dried fruit, &c.—we shall have to depend in great part on our country contributors; while for imported liquors and wines, preparations of beef and milk, and for fine groceries generally, our dependence must be almost entirely on those in the cities, or rather on the funds contributed by city residents; for the major part—I may say nearly all—of this latter expensive description of stock has hitherto been purchased directly from the dealers by the Commission and its branches. It would therefore be well, I think, that our methods and correspondence should be

simultaneously conducted with reference to these ascertained facts, and that we should make the most of the advantages afforded by what have been demonstrated to be the natural channels of supply, rather than that we should endeavor to force the current into those which our theories incline us to regard as the legitimate ones.

The excess of the stock on hand of linen rags, lint and bandages, over the current demands in almost all the depots tributary to the Commission, was, in the early part of the year, so great that some of the correspondents of this office proposed to sell their overplus to the paper manufacturers, and use the proceeds in the purchase of supplies, of which there existed a deficiency. I was impressed, however, with the conviction that this surplus would be but temporary, and that it simply resulted from the accumulations of old linen made before the commencement of the war in the households of the country; while I thought that the exhaustion of this accumulation, and the high prices for the basis of this kind of stock ruling in the market since the commencement of hostilities, would prove an effectual bar to such supplies in the future. I stated my impressions on this subject to my correspondents, and I am happy to say they were dissuaded from carrying out their intention. On reference to the figures, you will perceive that the aggregated amount of these materials now on hand in this depot and in those of our branches is only 236 barrels.

If this stock should, by the chances of war, be heavily drawn upon within a month or two, I am inclined to think that some exertion will be required to replenish it in sufficient quantities throughout the winter.

In reviewing our labors in the past and anticipating our prospects for the future, it cannot fail to afford matter of remark and congratulation to realize the extraordinary support which has been extended to the Commission, and through it to the National cause, by the loyal women of the country; for while money has been freely provided for its treasury by the rich men of the country, from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts, the articles of clothing and the delicacies in the way of food provided by the women—rich and poor alike—have tenfold exceeded in cash value the donations of the former. And it will perhaps encourage your correspondents to know what I can assure them is the truth—that of some twenty thousand (20,000) cases of invoiced goods, many of them containing articles valued at several hundred dollars, which have been forwarded to this depot of the Commission, not more than one or two have failed to reach us. And it may also be satisfactory to know that the proportion of money expenditure for their distribution, made by the Commission for the various purposes of the remuneration of its employés, rent, freight, postage, and all other incidental outlays, does not amount to much more than three (3) per cent. on the cash value of the distributions made through its agency to the soldiers of the country.

Very respectfully and truly yours,
(Signed) ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Assistant Secretary.

Miss Ellen Collins, *Chairwoman Com. Cor. and Supplies, Woman's Central Association of Relief, New York.*

THE RATE OF EXCHANGE.

Mr. E. B. Fairchild is employed at Point Lookout in the collection of statistics regarding the physique of the men in the rebel armies, and the following letter recently received from him contains some curious facts as to the comparative value of United States and Confederate money, as settled by the rebels themselves:

Sanitary Commission, Point Lookout, Oct. 27, 1863.

Dr. L. H. Steiner:

My Dear Sir—I received yesterday the table and chairs. They were very welcome. I am getting on pretty well with my work; the cold weather and storm of the past week have interfered with me somewhat. The rebs are quite thinly clad, and they don't like to take off coat and shoes in my tent, where there is no fire. I am about having a fireplace and chimney built, and shall try and make the comforts of my tent a temptation to them to stay with me long enough to be measured. I have been telling them that I expected my spirometer by every boat, and many of them are waiting for that before they are measured. I

wish it might be sent down as soon as possible. The poor rebs suffer a good deal; many are almost entirely without shirts, very few of them have overcoats, and all are obliged to sleep on the ground, most of them in A tents, with three very much worn blankets for six men. There is a good deal of scurvy among them, contracted at Ft. Delaware; there is also considerable small-pox. Yesterday afternoon, as I had little to do, I accepted the invitation of one of them to walk through the camp; the first time I have been beyond my own tent. The main street is their *exchange*, and of all the bartering and "dickering" this beats anything I ever saw. The street was crowded, as I am informed it is from morning to night; here on the side of the street one was making coffee from the *grounds* taken from the cook-house, which he was selling for two dollars and a half "Confederate," or five cents "greenbacks," a cup. Another had half a dozen apples, and was crying out "Here's your nice apples, two for three dollars;" another, "Here's your hard-tack, five for a dollar;" another, "Here's your nice tobacco, one chaw for a dollar." While I was standing still looking on, I was beset on all sides to give tobacco for rings. One fellow wanted to sell me a pipe. I asked him the price: "Two dollars and a half 'Confederate, or *five cents greenbacks*,' I don't care which." They sell everything. I saw one man who had no shirt on, who had just received one from the Provost Marshal, trying to sell it for tobacco. They make bricks of clay, which they dry in the sun, of which they make chimneys with fireplaces to warm their tents. They used to make them for two dollars and a half a hundred, or five cents "greenbacks;" but recently some of our soldiers have been buying them, and they have raised the price to twenty-five cents a hundred, equivalent to twelve and a half dollars a hundred Confederate. I made a bargain with one of them yesterday to build me a chimney. He charged me thirty-four *dollars*, and thought me very liberal when I offered him fifty-cents in "greenbacks." There is a good deal of Confederate money among them; some of the men are buying it up. A rebel sergeant showed me $18,000 to-day. I wish you could come down here for a couple of days. It would pay you well if you could spare the time. The last measurement I have taken is No. 555. I have done a good day's work to-day.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) E. B. FAIRCHILD.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AT GETTYSBURG.

The following has reference to the testimony borne to the value of the labors of the Commission on the field at Gettysburg, by Mr. John F. Seymour, a brother of Governor Seymour of this State:

To the Editor of the Utica Morning Herald.

Our townsman, Mr. John F. Seymour, has spent eight days at Gettysburg and in its neighborhood, ministering to the wants of our wounded soldiers. In a letter just received from him, after speaking of their condition—"some in churches, some in barns, some in tents among forest trees, some in tents on open fields, some under such shelter as a farmer would be ashamed to show for his cows, some under blankets hung over cross-sticks, and some without even so much shelter as that," he says: "The United States Medical Department, which is not excelled by any in the world for efficiency, has made ample provision for 10,000 wounded soldiers—its officers and medicines were on the battle-ground—but when the enemy retreated from Gettysburg they left 11,000 wounded men in buildings, and on open fields, and in the woods; and thus 20,000, instead of 10,000, men were immediately to be cared for in a small village and in a farming country already pillaged or partly exhausted by Lee's army. The railroad, which might have brought supplies, was broken up for miles, and the telegraph wires and poles were down. What of the Sanitary Commission in this emergency? Everything that is praiseworthy. The Medical Department could not have got along without that and the Christian Commission. The soldiers would have starved to death without their aid. As soon as the railroad was repaired the Sanitary Commission sent an ice-car daily from Philadelphia, loaded with fresh meats, milk and vegetables. With its ambulances it poured in among the suffering multitude thousands of pounds of bread and meat, clothing, blankets, bandages, beef-tea, condensed milk, liquors, and, in short, everything that human kindness could devise was gathered up by the wide benevolence of this Commission, and poured out among the wounded soldiers, friend and foe alike, until they were more than supplied. I can-

not sufficiently express my admiration and gratitude for the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. The Sanitary Commission is worthy of all the aid and confidence which its most zealous friends in Utica have ever claimed for it. Fully to appreciate its labors you need to *witness* the wants and sufferings of the thousands of wounded and dying scattered over miles of country around Gettysburg."

Mr. Seymour speaks further of the condition of the wounded, and then adds:

"Imagine, if you can, all these things, and then you may understand something of the value and the necessity of a Commission like this, to which the citizens of Utica have so wisely contributed." He says: "In addition to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, delegations from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan and other States have been at Gettysburg, striving to mitigate the pain and where the wants of these wounded soldiers."

Mr. Seymour speaks of the impression which, he fears, prevails in relation to the conduct of the people of Gettysburg after the battle, and concludes thus:

"Doubtless, miserable wretches are to be found there, as in every other place, who have extorted money from soldiers and strangers;—but it should be recollected that the village and surrounding country had been occupied by Lee's hungry army before the battle. The people were worn out by excitement and terror—by the presence and conflict of great armies—and then came 20,000 wounded men, and thousands of anxious friends, all crowding in upon the inhabitants. There was scarcely a house that was not filled with strangers, occupying beds, sofas and floors. The exhausted inhabitants fed and lodged them with the greatest hospitality. That there were instances of shameful impositions cannot be denied; but they would have been practiced anywhere. At Gettysburg they were only the exceptions to a generous hospitality of a people who had difficulty in providing for themselves."

These extracts from Mr. Seymour's letter will, I am sure, be read with interest. If any additional testimony were required of the ceaseless labors and vigilance, the wise and benevolent action, and the indispensable necessity of the Sanitary Commission, it is furnished, at least to us, by what is here said by a fellow-citizen who is so well known and so highly and justly esteemed as Mr. Seymour.

The ladies of Utica who have been so long and so patiently, industriously, and effectively engaged in contributing to the supplies of the Commission, will find some reward for their self-sacrificing labors in Mr. Seymour's statements, and will be excited to continued and increased efforts in behalf of such an instrumentality of mercy, (as is the Sanitary Commission,) to those who are offering up their lives in defence of all that is dear to them and to us all.

Your readers, Mr. Editor, know that subscriptions of monthly contributions to the funds of the Ladies' Society were quite extensively made in the city during the last spring. The sums subscribed are payable to Mr. Thomas Buchanan, at the Savings Bank of Utica. If they are all promptly paid it will enable the society to continue its good work without any labor or anxiety about funds, and without any further call upon our citizens for pecuniary aid. There is a large amount of the subscriptions in arrear. The subscribers are *urgently requested to pay arrearages immediately, and hereafter to pay promptly on the first Friday of every month, according to the terms of the subscription.* Unless this is done it will be necessary to employ a collector, which will involve considerable expense, and so far diminish the fund, every dollar of which should be devoted to the direct object of the society.

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

"ONE INQUIRY AND ONE ANSWER."

The working of this machinery, erected by the Commission for the supply of information with regard to patients in the various United States Hospitals, is well illustrated by the following facts taken from Mr. H. S. Holbrook's report from Louisville, Ky., of Sept. 1, 1863:

An old man enters the office. He has traveled from Northern Ohio to meet his son in this city; he has been told to inquire at the Sanitary Commission rooms for direction to the hospital which contains him. While the clerk turns to the books, he chats of his son and home, of the different articles in his carpet-bag, put in by mother and sisters at home—each had sent some little comfort. He is all animation and hope, as if at the very door which is to admit him to the realization of all his happy anticipations. The *record* says—"died"—that very morning! The *register* says, "one inquiry, one answer." It does not speak of the careful preparatory suggestions that sympathy tenderly makes towards the announcement of the saddening fact. It does not show that strong old man convulsed and weeping like a child. You see not his departure from the office stunned with grief. You feel not the stifled thanks of his farewell grasp—full payment for all your sympathy and care. He goes slowly and sadly away. One of the clerks accompanies him, who procures a burial-case for the remains of his "poor boy," and assists him in all his preparations for his mournful journey

home on the same day. The register says —"one inquiry, one answer."

"A mother from Northern Indiana has received a dispatch that her son is sick in Nashville; she is on her way to see him; she applies for a pass, but passes for ladies are seldom granted, and not without a permit from head-quarters. Her credentials are all right, but she is told that it is more than doubtful if she is permitted to go. She comes to the Directory; her son's name is on the books; "telegraphing is expensive, and the result doubtful." "'Tis too bad," she exclaims, "I have seven sons, and all of them in the army; I do not wish them away, but I do want, if they get sick, the privilege of going to nurse them." "My dear madam, you shall go; that fact will get you a pass," and so it did. The register says, "one inquiry, one answer."

A sprightly young wife is sent from the telegraph office to have a dispatch written for a permit to visit her husband in Nashville. She is quite impatient at the useless delay in consulting the records for his name. "She *knows* he is in Nashville, and all she wants is a dispatch written, and will be obliged for as much haste as possible." "Are you sure he is in Nashville?" "Certainly." "You would have no objections to meeting him here?" "You are playing with me, sir; will you give me the dispatch?" "I don't think you will need one. This 'abstract' will please you better. *There* are directions where to find your husband, a few blocks off." With one look, to be sure she was not being "played" with, she was off from the office down street at what he would have called the "double quick," and found him *not* in *Nashville.* Had she not come to the Directory, possibly she might have obtained a pass to Nashville, and gone; or failing in that, would have gone home without seeing him.

A short time ago this case came under our notice. A soldier in hospital in Nashville writes to his wife that he is very sick, and requests her to come to him. The letter was dated the 5th Sept. Two days afterwards he is transferred to Louisville, but his letter informing her of the change never reached her. She leaves home and stops over night in Louisville, and goes to Nashville on the 15th. There she learns that he is in Louisville. Delayed for lack of funds, she returns to this city on the 22d and finds that he died on the night of the 16th, the next night after she lodged in the same city, so near to each other, yet never to meet. Had she known of the Hospital Directory, and consulted it, this lifelong grief would have been prevented.

A father desires to visit a sick son. His statements accord with our record. The dispatch written for him explains the case.

"To Brig.-Gen. J. A. Garfield, Chief of Staff, Murfreesboro', Tenn.: Had four sons in army; two are dead; two belong to the 89th Ohio, Co. ——. William C—— is sick at Gallatin, hospital four. Please grant pass. A. C——.

J. S. Newberry, Voucher."

The pass was granted.

A father from Pennsylvania presents a letter from the surgeon of a hospital in Nashville, saying that his son will be discharged, and sent to this city in care of the Sanitary Commission, and requests the father to meet him here. He asks, "Where is he?" We have no note of his arrival. "He must still be in hospital at Nashville. But stay; here is a report just in." The name is there, and died August 9, 1863, the very day the father received the letter, and set out to meet him. His son had sent him word not to bring more money than necessary to pay his fare to Louisville, as he was paid off and had enough. What was to be done? We loaned him his passage home; made out the necessary papers to get the effects of his son; wrote to Nashville to Sanitary Commission agents to forward them, and he left for home that evening.

We might multiply similar cases indefinitely, each one possessing some peculiarity to vary the service, needed to meet the wants of the applicant. But these must suffice.

HEALTH OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

The following is a summary of the Report of the Deputy Inspector General, which has just been issued, for the year 1861:

It shows that among the troops serving in the United Kingdom, the admissions into hospital were 1.025 per 1,000 of mean strength, the deaths 91.24, and the constantly sick 54.54; a slight reduction from the previous year in all these particulars. Excluding the depots, because in them many are men with health impaired by service in unhealthy climates, the mortality among the troops was lower than that of the male population in the healthy districts of England under the age of 25, nearly identical with it between 25 and 30, but higher than that of the civil population above the latter age. The leading facts of the great prevalence of venereal and high mortality by tubercular diseases remained unchanged; the former having caused more than a third of all the admissions into hospital, and the latter above a third of the total deaths. The admissions into hospital for venereal diseases amounted to 354 per 1,000 of mean strength, equal to more than one man in every three; and the inefficiency thus caused was equal to the loss of the services of every soldier at home for 8.56 days, being a trifle under the amount in the preceding year. The admissions per

1,000 of strength from this cause reached 487 at Manchester, 485 at Portsmouth, 470 at Plymouth, 469 at Belfast, 399 at Woolwich, 361 at Aldershot; in London and Windsor they were 328 among the Foot Guards, but only 135 among the Household Cavalry. Diseases of the respiratory system, influenza, and tonsillitis were less prevalent than in the previous year; they prevail most among the dock-yards and arsenals, a result probably of the greater amount of duty and exposure of the men. There were 33 instances of accidental death by drowning—a strong hint that the men should be instructed in swimming. The infliction of corporal punishment varied in the year from 1 per 1,000 in London and Windsor, to 2.9 in the large manufacturing towns. In the cavalry, artillery, and infantry regiments, the whole mortality in the year was lower than that (7.41) in the most healthy districts of England; but this comparison is made after the elimination of diseased lives from the ranks of the army by invaliding, and the invaliding in all arms except the Household Cavalry, was higher than 1860. The strength of the army having been raised above the authorized establishment, it became necessary to reduce it, and for this purpose a number of the least efficient men were discharged, who, under ordinary circumstances, would have continued to serve. If the deaths of men invalided in 1861, and who died before the end of that year, be included in the calculation, the returns for 1861 show an increase in the mortality of the Cavalry and Foot Guards, but a decrease in that of the Artillery, Military Train and Infantry regiments; and the ratio of deaths per 1,000 of strength becomes 10.54 in the Household Cavalry, 8.43 in the cavalry of the line, 7.73 in the Royal Artillery, 12.19 in the Foot Guards, and 9.05 in the infantry regiments. The mortality by tubercular diseases was very high in the Household Cavalry, but it is an accidental fluctuation, arising from the small numbers under observation. Omitting these troops and the depots, which included men sent home for change of climate, the proportion of deaths by tubercular diseases is remarkable for its uniformity in all the arms, ranging between 2.41 per 1,000 in the cavalry of the line and the Foot Guards, and 2.75 in the Military Train. But it is in diseases of this class that the effect of invaliding, in reducing the mortality, must be most strikingly seen. Combining the mortality and the invaliding, which is the only way of arriving at a correct conclusion, the ratios of decrease (through tubercular disease) by deaths and invaliding, were 8.41 per 1,000 in the Royal Artillery, 8.68 in the infantry regiments, 12.18 in the cavalry of the line, 13.75 in the Military Train, and no less than 18.07 in the Foot Guards, or twice as great as in the artillery or infantry. These proportions are considerably higher than in 1860, but the more extensive invaliding must be borne in mind. Delirium tremens is only entered as the cause of death in two instances in 1861, and it gave rise to fewer admissions into hospital than in the preceding years; so also did "intemperance." The admissions from delirium tremens and ebriositas conjointly, were 3.28 per 1,000 of mean strength in the Household Cavalry, 5.38 in the cavalry of the line, as high as 6.39 in the Royal Artillery, 4.47 in the Foot Guards, and 5.65 in the infantry regiments. In the depots, the admissions for these diseases, the direct result of drinking, were generally considerably higher. It is remarkable that the ratio of admissions into hospital in some corps is double that in others, and that for a considerable part of the year, the most sickly and the most healthy corps were stationed at the same place.*

From the Mediterranean stations the returns are generally satisfactory; but Gibraltar contributes a high ratio of invalids from pulmonary and cardiac diseases; and disease resulting from immorality, though much less than in the army at home, has increased, notwithstanding the police regulations. In Canada, also, there is an increase of this class of cases, but the amount is still much below that shown in the home returns; and the returns of sickness generally, both from Canada and Nova Scotia, present a very satisfactory result when compared with those relating to the troops serving at home. The report from British Columbia indicates a remarkably healthy condition of the troops—a detachment of the Royal Engineers. In a force of 130 men there was but one death—that of a sapper, who was frozen to death while returning to head-quarters from a surveying expedition. From the West Indies, the returns show a great improvement over the previous year, but the mortality among the black troops is still very heavy. In Jamaica, the ratio constantly sick was only 29.87 per 1,000 among the white troops, but 52.23 among the black—a difference which is traced to the circumstance of the black troops being quartered in the low lands, where intermittent fevers are rife, while the white troops were in the more healthy climate of Newcastle. In Western Africa, the mortality of the troops (black) considerably exceeded 40 per thousand—a

* There is very little doubt that the difference in the rate of admissions into hospital in different corps, noted here, is, other things being equal, due to difference in the officers. Great inattention to the health and comfort of the men, in the sanitary condition of the quarters, on the part of the officers, over-rigid discipline, and a harassing amount of drill, it is well known, have a large influence in developing disease, if only by driving the men into vicious courses as a means of distraction.

mortality greatly above the average of the two preceding years. It is attributed partly to the fatigue and exposure of the men in two expeditions of a hostile nature. The returns from the Cape of Good Hope show a considerable improvement in most respects. The principal medical officer notices the prevalence of disease of the heart, and attributes it in great part to intemperance, keeping up an excitement of the circulation, aggravated by high atmospheric temperature. From Mauritius the return is, for that climate, remarkably favorable, owing, it is supposed, to the influence of two hurricanes. In Ceylon, the mortality was high, nearly 20 per 1,000, but still much below the average of the two previous years. In Australia the mortality was as high as 15.44 per 1,000; and in New Zealand also, deducting men killed in action, the mortality was considerably above the average; in both these colonies rheumatism was the chief cause of invaliding. In Southern China the mortality fell to 23 per 1,000; but in the north, where a large garrison was left at Tien-tsin, it was more than double that ratio, and reached 54 per 1,000. The deaths from miasmatic diseases were 31.80 per 1,000 in the north, and only 12.58 in the south. The diseases especially fatal in the north were dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera. Diseases caused by immorality were only half as common in the north as in the south; in the south the admissions into hospital from this cause reached 511 per thousand; but their prevalence among the native troops, as compared with the European, was in proportion of only one to seven. The average number constantly sick among the European troops, was in South China as high as 283 per 1,000, and in North China 205; 392 men, 63.8 per 1,000 of mean strength, were sent home to England for change of climate, and the number finally discharged the service as invalids in 1861 was 116, or 18.88 per 1,000 of strength. The climate of Tien-tsin is described as remarkably dry, and there is great predominance of blue sky at all seasons; the thermometer ranged in 1861 from 108 deg. to—1.5 deg. Lastly we have the returns from India. Out of an average force of 57,082 of her Majesty's troops, 2,097 men died, 36.74 per 1,000. The chief mortality was in Bengal, and was occasioned by the severe epidemic of cholera, which caused more than half the total mortality in that Presidency. Exclusive of the deaths by it, the ratio of mortality in Bengal amounted to only 22 per 1,000, and the mortality in the two other Presidencies was much lower than in 1860; it was 15.13 in Madras, and 24.72 in Bombay. Nine men died from sun-stroke; 857, 15 per cent. of the average strength, were discharged the service as invalids in the course of the year.

WHERE YOUR GIFTS GO.

It is a white dusty ridge in Alabama; tall, slim oaks sprinkle it, and beneath them, in streets with a strange, far eastern look, stand the tents of one of those blessed cities of mercy—a field hospital. The sun pours hotly down; a distant drum snarls now and then as if in a dream; the tinkling concert of a cloud of locusts—the cicada of the South—comes, like the dear old sleigh-bells' chime, from a distant tree. "The loud laugh that tells the vacant mind" is unheard; the familiar sound of closing doors and children's carol never rises there; the tents swell white, and sad, and still. Within them lie almost three thousand soldiers, marred with all wounds conceivable, wasted with pain, parched with fever, wearily turning, wearily waiting to take up the blessed march. Ho, for the North! That is the word, the ever-abiding charmer that "lingers still behind." It is Stevenson; it is Nashville; it is Louisville; it is home; it is heaven. Alas for it, how they falter and sleep by the way! And every one of these men was *somebody's* boy once; had a mother once, a wife, a sister, a sweetheart; but "better is a friend that is near than a brother afar off," and now comes the blessed mission of woman. True, there are only two here in person, but how many in heart and work!

You have been thinking, my sisters, where is our work in all these scenes? That snowy roll of linen; that little pillow beneath the sufferer's head; that soft fold across the gashed breast; that cooling drink the rude, kind, stalwart nurse is putting to yonder boy's white lips; that delicacy this poor fellow is just partaking; that dressing-gown whose broidered hem those long, thin fingers are toying with; the slippers a world too wide for the thin, faltering feet; the dish of fruit a left hand is slowly working at, his right laid upon our Federal altar at Chickamauga, never to be lifted more. Your tree, my sister, bore that fruit; your fingers wrought, your heart conceived. "What do the women say about us boys at home?" slowly asked a poor wreck of a lad, as I sat by his side. That brow of his ached, I know, for the touch of a loving hand, "and the sound of a voice that is still." At the moment he asked the question he was turning over a little silken needle-book that one of you laughing girls made some day and tucked in a corner of a bag, labeled "United States Sanitary Commission." On the cover of that book you had wrought the words—playfully, perhaps—"My bold soldier boy." I silently pointed to the legend; the reply struck home to his heart; and he burst into tears. I assure you they were not bitter tears he shed, and as he wiped them away with a fine film of a

handkerchief you girls had hemmed for him, his question was twice answered, and he was content. His eyelids closed down, his breathing was regular; he had fallen asleep, and I thought it was the picture of the "Soldier's Dream" over again.

You hear of the mal-appropriation of your gifts, but never fear; one grain may fail, but two will spring up and blossom out into "forget-me-nots." Your work is everywhere. Go with me to that tent standing apart; it is the dead-house tent. Four boys in their brown blankets, four white wood coffins, four labels with four names on four still breasts. Two of the four garments the sleepers wear are of linen from your stores, stitched by your fingers. Verily, the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies should be named "Mary," for are they not like her of old, "last at the cross and earliest at the grave?"—*From B. T. Taylor's Chattanooga Correspondence with the Chicago Journal.*

RELIEF OF OUR PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

The following report will, it is hoped, supply all needed information as to what can be done, and what has been done by the Commission for the relief of the Union soldiers now confined at Richmond.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 823 Broadway, New York, Nov. 11, 1863.

The Rev. H. W. Bellows, D.D., President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission:

Sir—In reply to your request accompanying the letter of the Rev. —— ——— of the 10th inst., which asked what had been, and what could be done by the Commission for the relief of Union men in the Richmond prisons, I have the honor to report, following the order of Mr. ——'s inquiries:

1. The supplies of clothing and reading matter mentioned on page 30 of the Sanitary Commission Bulletin of Nov. 1, of which I have sent a copy to Mr. ——, were contained in 15 cases. From Gen. Neal Dow we have the acknowledgment of the receipt by him of 13 of these cases, and of his partial distribution of them among the officers confined with him at Libby prison. He was expecting on the 1st inst. to obtain permission the next day to complete the distribution among the privates on Belle Isle.

2. The Commission has, since the receipt of these advices from Gen. Dow, sent to him a consignment of concentrated food, beef stock for making soup, condensed milk, extract of coffee, sweet chocolate, &c. This is evidently experimental. Should these articles reach our braves without being made to pay heavier tribute on the way than did the first consignment, the Commission will of course keep up a steady supply.

3. The Sanitary Commission has been unwilling to assume any responsibility for transmitting packages of either food or clothing to specified individuals at Richmond. Its supplies sent there, as in its general relief service, are sent to those who need them most. Its channel of relief, somewhat limited by the Confederate authorities, would be speedily choked, if it was open to consignments for individuals. To show how important the Commission considers this rule, I may mention that one of its own officers whose kinsman is languishing in Libby, is unwilling to appropriate its privileges for individual relief.

I may here say that Gen. S. A. Meredith, Commissioner for Exchange at Fortress Monroe, Va., is authorized by our Government to send on its account such supplies of clothing to our men imprisoned at Richmond as they may need and as the Confederate authorities will permit. The newspapers also assert that Gen. Meredith will receive packages for individuals, but of this I am not sure.

4. The Commission is not informed as to the methods by which the Government intends to protect its soldiers from sufferings such as they have recently experienced at Richmond, nor as to the prospect of a general exchange of prisoners, but it has asked of the Secretary of War the privilege of sending, with the assent of the Confederate authorities, to the Libby and Belle Isle prisons an accredited agent, who will be devoted to ministering to the necessities of our men there. An efficient and discreet person is now under appointment, only awaiting permission of the authorities to enter upon the mission.

Respectfully yours,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,
General Secretary of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

By the steamer of October 31st, Messrs. J. B. Abbott, O. C. Bullard and W. S. Bullard sailed for New Orleans, to establish in the Department of the Gulf "Homes" and "Lodges" in connection with the special relief work of the Commission. And by the steamer of the 14th inst., Dr. E. A. Crane, sanitary inspector; Mr. Thomas Furniss, store-keeper; and Messrs. Edward Mitchell, Gordon Grant and John Stephens, Jr., relief agents, went out to the same department to reinforce the general working corps of the Commission in the extreme Southwest.

REPORT OF SPECIAL RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

(Continued from our last.)

Leaving Washington, we come next to Annapolis; here, in July last, a "Home for nurses, mothers, wives, and relatives of sick soldiers" was established, similar in its objects and methods to the "Nurses' Home" in Washington. It has met an evident need, and given to many wives and mothers, who came among strangers, seeking their sick husbands or sons, the shelter and welcome of a home. During the past two (2) months the number of meals furnished there has been 2,847; the number of nights' lodging 569. There have been as many as twenty-five women who found their rest here in a single night. The "Home" is conveniently located, and with an experienced matron in charge, is under the immediate supervision of Chaplain Henries, U. S. A.; it is performing a kind mission.

At Baltimore there has been a Special Relief agent, who has taken in hand the defective papers of discharged men, aided in collecting their pay, obtained transportation for those without means, and in general given "aid and comfort" to those needing it. His assistant, with great faithfulness, has visited every boat which has arrived from Fortress Monroe since the 1st of June last, and every train of cars from Washington or from the West, looking after, protecting, directing any soldiers who seem to need assistance; his record-book shows that he has thus given aid, more or less, to 4,627 from June 1st to Oct. 1st, of whom he has taken over 2,000 to the "Union Relief Rooms" of Baltimore, where they have received meals and lodgings with kindly care.

In Philadelphia, there has been much done by the "Woman's Penn. Branch U. S. Sanitary Commission," in the way of Special Relief, although the admirable local organizations of the city left comparatively a small amount to be done in that direction, excepting the work of helping families of soldiers. The "Free Pension Agency" of the Philadelphia Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, under the efficient management of Mr. Ashman, has been doing a most valuable service; up to the present date Mr. Ashman has made out the pension papers for over one thousand applicants, and with painstaking care investigated and successfully followed out many peculiarly complicated cases. He also, without cost, collects all "claims" for discharged soldiers. Notices of this office and its aid are posted in the hospitals in that vicinity, and endeavors are made to secure its benefits to all discharged soldiers needing such assistance as it renders.

In New York, whatever Special Relief work has fallen upon the Commission has been attended to by the "Woman's Central Association of Relief;" with occasional exceptions, this work has consisted in judiciously assigning the applicant for aid to such existing Relief Association in the city as his case pointed to; or if more immediate assistance was needed, as clothes and transportation, such have been furnished. The local provisions in New York for assisting disabled soldiers are large, embracing the New England Rooms and the State Institution, "The New York Relief Association."

The following report from Boston will show the methods adopted there, and the results which have followed.

It is to be considered that this Relief work in Boston was not started until March last, its need until then hardly being acknowledged, yet the absolute necessity for its existence has been asserted by its results every day since. I make mention of this fact and give the report in full, in order to set an example and give the suggestion to the various large cities throughout the land, and I would ask, whether the associate members of the Sanitary Commission in such cities and large sea-coast or inland towns might not wisely and humanely establish "Homes" on a smaller or broader scale, as the case may be. At least they should, I am sure, carefully inform themselves of the nature of the needs in their midst, and the methods in detail by which those needs are to be met.

F. N. Knapp, *Special Relief Agent U. S. Sanitary Com'n, Washington, D. C.:*

My Dear Sir—I submit herewith a brief Report relating to the Special Relief ser-

vice of the Sanitary Commission in Boston.

This service was organized in the month of March, 1863, under the direction of an executive committee, appointed for the purpose by the resident associate members. The establishment, which is located at No. 76 Kingston Street, is in charge of a superintendent and assistants, and has been administered with the following results:

From the date of its organization to October 1, 1863, a period of about six months, aid has been rendered to 3,050 soldiers, classified as follows:

Furnished with transportation at Gov't rates	1,091
" " " paid by Com'n.	142
" " " by Quarterm'r.	450
" carriage within the city	875
" special attendance to their homes	71
" lodging	1,407
" meals—(No. of meals, 4,129)	1,938
" clothing—(No. of garments, 489)	260
" aid in arranging papers	96
" " obtaining pay	91
" medical advice	322
Wounds dressed	155
Procured commutation of rations	73
Loaned money—(amount, $10.02)	19
Gave money—(amount, $9.08)	28
Sent to Hospital	60
Referred to local Relief Associations	25
Enlisted	14
Obtained Pension	1
Procured Coffins	3
Total	3,050

The recipients are thus classified in the order of States: Massachusetts, 1,480; Maine, 926; New Hampshire, 210; Vermont, 31; New York, 54; Pennsylvania, 12; Ohio, 41; Rhode Island, 9; Maryland, 2; District Columbia, 7; Louisiana, 2; Illinois, 5; Iowa, 4; Minnesota, 5; California, 1; Connecticut, 6; U. S. Army, 70; U. S. Navy, 26; Invalid Corps, 45; Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, Alabama, and Rebel Army, 1 each.

The following articles, drawn from the Supply Department of the N. E. Woman's Auxiliary Association, have been used in furnishing the rooms and for distribution:

Bedquilts, 13; blankets, 13; sheets, 124; pillows, 56; pillow-cases, 63; bed-sacks, 12; flannel shirts, 70; cotton shirts, 48; socks, 218 prs.; towels, 78; slippers, 62 prs.; old shirts, 51; cotton drawers, 106; dressing-gowns, 1; flannel drawers, 42; handkerchiefs, 60; slings, 16; flannel shirts, 24; 1 lot bandages and old pants; 6 tin cups and 2 water-pails.

I am unable to furnish you at present with an exact statement of the cost of the service for the last three months, ending October 1, but hand you herewith a full statement of expense account for the three months ending July 1, 1863, which period includes the first outlay for furnishing rooms, &c.

For the three months ending July 1, 1863, the total expenditure, covering the whole cost of the service, was $1,962 17, classified as follows:

For furnishing Rooms	$ 464 51
" " Hospital	254 82
" Rent and Taxes	118 50
" Salaries	363 59
" Advertising	185 00
" Printing	49 00
" Stationery	70 71
Traveling Expenses	45 00
Postage	8 00
Superintendent's Current Expense Ac't	320 03
Miscellaneous	83 01
Total	$1,962 17

For this period of three months the number of soldiers who received the aid of the Commission was 837.

Deducting from the total expenditure the first necessary outlay for furnishing rooms, $719 33, as shown in above statement of account, and as distinguished from the ordinary current expenses, the cost per soldier is shown to be as 837 to 1,242 $\frac{84}{100}$, or about $1.45 each.

Permit me to add that abundant evidence has been afforded that this service of the Commission, as already administered in Boston, has been attended with the most beneficent and gratifying results.

I am, my dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,

JNO. S. BLATCHFORD,

Sec'y of Boston Ex. Com. Sanitary Com.

BOSTON, *Oct. 1st*, 1863.

I pass now from the North to the West. The Special Relief work at the West, at three or four points, was established a year and more ago by the Branches of the Sanitary Commission; while at other points this work had not until within six or eight months its special place assigned to it, but it came in in connection with the general Relief work of the Commission. I have not the reports which would enable me to give the details of these Lodges and Homes at the West. I can only speak of their methods and their work in general terms, and give the gross results of their labors.

In general terms, then, the same Special Relief work is done at the West by the Commission and its Branches which has been described in detail at Washington; modified, of course, at each point, by the circumstances of the case. Thus, at one point there is no occasion for the correction of papers, but the largest occasion for shelter and care; at one station there is no call for clothing and nursing, but the loudest call for nutritious food; at one section a Home or Lodge has no place; in another section its open doors are like open arms to those ready to perish.

And thus, according to the needs which were to be met, have been the methods and amount of Special Relief throughout the entire West. And while I cannot furnish the detail of this work, I can with great confidence assert, that throughout that region an immense amount of Relief has thus been given to thousands and thousands of soldiers; and at all the several points of relief after Lodges have been established the aid has been given promptly, wisely, and abundantly. Could the records of these several Lodges and Homes have been copied they would, I am sure, make a living history, telling of how much soldiers have to bear, and yet what kindly helps are at hand to aid in making their burdens light; how much, with all alleviations, soldiers have to suffer, yet how nobly and patiently the suffering is borne; of weak limbs bound in with strong hearts; of eyes looking towards home, yet with feet firmly set towards the camp or battle-field.

I can, however, merely give in figures the numbers cared for at these Homes, as indicated by the number of Lodges and of meals furnished there to Oct. 1st. Part of these Homes, as I said, have been opened only seven or eight months—others from nearly the beginning of the war.

The following are some of the figures furnished by Dr. Newberry, Associate Secretary in charge of the Western Department of the U. S. San. Com. at Cleveland, Ohio:

Nights' lodging furnished	2,569
Meals given	12,227
Home at Chicago, Ill., (opened in July last.)	
Nights' lodging furnished	3,109
Meals given	11,325
Home in Cincinnati, Ohio.	
Nights' lodging (about)	10,000
Meals given	40,017
Home at Louisville, Ky.	
Nights' lodging	17,765
Meals given (at the Home)	52,080
" " (at the Station House)	49,933
Lodge at Nashville, Tenn.	
Nights' lodging	4,821
Meals given	11,909
Home at Cairo, Ill.	
Nights' lodging	79,550
Meals given	190,150
Lodge at Memphis, Tenn.	
Nights' lodging	2,850
Meals given	14,780

This note should be here made: that at Cincinnati, Louisville and Cairo, many besides *invalid* soldiers are included in the number of those fed and cared for. At these points, the Home of the Commandant drawing rations from Government for the purpose, has at times provided for detached companies, or parts of regiments, or even whole regiments; thus meeting the needs which in Washington and elsewhere are provided for at the "Soldiers' Rests," which are under the exclusive care of Government. This fact, in part, accounts for the numbers attached to the record of the Homes at those places, which might seem unaccountably large, if limited strictly to invalid soldiers receiving care.

The Special Relief work upon the Atlantic coast, from Newbern down, has been embraced in the general relief work of the commandant until recently. Arrangements are now made for establishing Homes and all facilities for special relief at all the points on the coast wherever there are large numbers of our troops.

[The appendix to this Report, containing facts bearing upon the question of the provision to be made for disabled discharged soldiers, will be presented hereafter in another connection.]

Mr. Knapp, our Associate Secretary, has just returned from Chicago, too late, unfortunately, for his account of the "Northwestern Fair," held in that city, to appear in this number of the BULLETIN. We shall publish it in our next. He describes the Fair as having been a great success.

REPORTS FROM THE WEST.

The reports this week relate almost entirely to the doings of the Commission in Tennessee. Dr. Warriner writes from Memphis, October 6:

Yours of the 29th ult., inclosing letter from Mrs. A. Hoge, dated in August, reached me yesterday. I went immediately to the rooms of the Christian Commission to ascertain their feelings towards our Commission, and to inquire into their methods of operating. They have not received any sanitary stores since their establishment here, and do not wish any. I proposed to turn over to them our miscellaneous reading matter, and receive from them in turn any boxes of sanitary stores which might chance to be forwarded to them. They cordially agreed to such arrangement. They have a very pleasant reading-room, supplied with secular and religious newspapers, including some of the prominent dailies, and an ample list of religious books.

Miscellany they are deficient in, and appreciate its value as an attraction to many who would not otherwise be induced to visit them.

Mr. Burnett has always been ready to assist me and second my efforts wherever in the field I have met him. He is at present absent from here, on a tour of humanity to Chattanooga. His associate here assures me that they are agreed and quite decided on the question of disbursing sanitary stores.

THE LODGE AT MEMPHIS.

Through the kindness of the Medical Department I have secured stoves for warming the Lodge.

Gen. Hurlburt has given me authority for purchasing fuel, to be paid for out of the contingent fund under his control. The Lodge is doing an excellent work. Mr. Christy's management of it is above criticism. He showed me his weekly report, forwarded to-day. There has been hitherto so extreme a caution on the part of authorities here in supplying to the Lodge various little appliances out of Government resources, that the items of expense to the Commission have inevitably accumulated to heavier sums than I had anticipated.

Mr. Christy's accounts are kept with great strictness, and, I am sure, perfect accuracy.

On the whole, it is apparent that this department has a heavier monthly expense than is reckoned in your office. The five hundred dollars brought me by Mr. Fogle did not pay up arrearages by considerable. I shall need as much more as soon as it can be sent to me. If I do not come North in a few weeks, I will make out a full account of all expense, and forward. I keep a strict account of every item spent for the Commission, of course; and somehow I find the Commission all the while in debt to me.

MR. ROBB.

Major Robb has been quite busy disbursing stores since I was here. I have been informed by several surgeons of a paper recently in circulation amongst them for their signatures, highly eulogistic of Mr. Robb, personally and officially; so much so, as to carry an implied depreciation of other Sanitary Agents. The persons who mentioned it to me had signed the paper, but were afterwards so painfully impressed with this feature of it, as to request that the paper be suppressed; they assured me that it had been. I warrant not wholly some use of it, some report of it, or reference to it, has gone to fruitful quarters, without a shadow of doubt. I have not yet felt it necessary to take this method of establishing myself at either end of the line of my operations. Robb has obtained a considerable portion of his late supplies from the Western Commission.

VEGETABLES.

People must be roused forthwith to the importance of sending *vegetables* to the army. We want enough to keep all hands busy disbursing them. We want enough to supply whole commands, and not merely the hospitals. We have none now. We can do no better service than feed the army with potatoes and onions. There certainly must be a sufficient surplus of these in the North to enable us to do it, if we can once get the subject sufficiently impressed upon the loyal producers of them. It has been only at brief and widely separated intervals that we have had supplies of these in adequate abundance to justify this general disbursement of them. Where it has occurred, the results have been in the highest possible degree satisfactory and beneficial. The effects are not to be weighed or estimated. No one thing has done so much to establish the reputation of the Commission with the army. And yet how very seldom we have been able to supplement commissary stores to this extent! If we could do it continually, we should prevent more sickness than our other efforts are able to relieve. I wish this notion could be preached all through the North, clamorously, and with power. Good old brother Chidlaw could do immeasurable good if he would concentrate his whole time and his magnificent good-will power for a season. I trust you will not neglect to call public attention to this express phase of Sanitary labor, and urge the

matter in all effective ways. Potatoes and onions for the whole army—make that the watch-word; varying the monotony from time to time, by the addition of cabbage! But don't let people encumber us with other kinds of vegetables, unless, perhaps, tomatoes. Their value is incomparably less than that of those named.

The same gentleman writes again, October 23, from the same place:

Since my last a heavy requsition has come in from Iuka for stores, and especially *vegetables*, for 400 sick left by the moving Army Corps of General Sherman. A post hospital is established there temporarily, to continue according to needs and circumstances. A considerable portion of the Corps was still at Iuka at last accounts, but in an active and mobile condition. I was able to make a tolerably fair response to the requisition. But the rooms now are well-nigh bare again, and the demand eastward will not be likely to diminish for some time to come. I await impatiently the arrival of the Clara Bell. I hear indirectly that she was still lying at Cairo last Wednesday.

DIARRHŒA.

I have been employing my leisure for a couple of days visiting the general hospitals here, and examining some of the severe cases of illness.

The whole number of patients in all these hospitals is to-day 3,020; about 50 of these are cases of extreme exhaustion, and slight prospect of recovery. The exact number of wounded I did not learn; it is small. The remainder of the cases are in more or less advanced stages of convalescence. Increasing coolness of the weather is obviously operating favorably. I gave attention more especially to the all-afflicting scourge of the camp, diarrhœa. I find that men do actually recover from even the chronic stages of the disease. I noted down the cases of cure and death, as they stand on the registers of the several hospitals, commencing with September 1st. The results are as follows:

OVERTON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 18.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	199	116
Returned to duty	12	6
Died	9	2

WEBSTER HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 1.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	160	1
Returned to duty	43	..
Died	13	..

UNION HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 19.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	176	7
Returned to duty	10	..
Died	49	..

JACKSON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 20.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	95	8
Returned to duty	4	2
Died	34	1

GAYOSO HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 19.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	45	39
Returned to duty	3	2
Died	..	8

WASHINGTON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 17.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	122	23
Returned to duty	21	5
Died	32	..

ADAMS HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 21.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	274	39
Returned to duty	37	15
Died	32	..

JEFFERSON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 21.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	11	40
Returned to duty	..	..
Died	5	2

The other two army hospitals are for special disease, gangrene and small-pox. The naval hospital I did not visit, as I was compelled to make haste with this examination. I omitted many points that may hereafter prove interesting, and even important, and confined myself to the one point of the relative mortality from this disease. I am not prepared, without a much more thorough and prolonged comparison of cases under treatment, to touch the question as to how much the difference in the above results may be due to difference in the treatment or to other conditions and circumstances.

A VALUABLE SUGGESTION.

It strikes me that it would not be a bad job for the Sanitary Commission to undertake a connected and systematic inspection of all the general hospitals in the Northwest, with reference to the mortality or curability of the more prominent camp diseases. Personal inspection would be a necessary adjunct to the study of registers. Is this being done? It may be, and I not know it, naturally enough. Why wouldn't the undersigned be a very proper person to be detailed for a while to such a work? The building of more general hospitals in the North will, no doubt, be commenced at once. You have heard already of Mrs. Gov. Harvey's success at Washington in obtaining an order for a very large one at Madison, Wisconsin. Other applications from Illinois and other States will be speedily, if not already made, and doubtless with similar success. Results of such inspections as I refer to would or *might* be of great service, in indicating locality

for the new structures. At all events, it is plain that most valuable information could be obtained. But it is all but a suggestion.

VEGETABLES AGAIN.

Mr. Carpenter, of Wisconsin, has arrived from Vicksburg. He reports everything in order there and at Natchez, but vegetables well-nigh exhausted at both points, and the demand still feverish. I do not see how we can spare anything for New Orleans, after all, with our present supplies.

And this reminds me to recur to the work of lecturing or talking, or something of the kind, directly to the donors, and stimulating, if possible, a more abundant, more active, and more steady supply. If anything can be accomplished by it more attention should, it seems to me, be given to it.

Our reports from Chattanooga furnish much interesting information touching the state of things at the place during the momentous and critical period between the battle of Chickamauga and the reoccupation of Lookout Valley by Gen'l Hooker. It is doubtful whether our armies in the West have at any period since the beginning of the war been placed in a position of so much embarrassment and perplexity. The loss of the river and railroad surrounded the work of feeding the troops with difficulties that would have been serious under ordinary circumstances, but which were rendered almost appalling by the fact that several thousand wounded were lying at Chattanooga in want of almost everything. The well were on half rations, and the sick were dying for want of delicacies that to them were absolute necessaries.

Dr. Read writes from Chattanooga October 13:

After my last hastily written report, I spent some days at Stevenson and Bridgeport, directing my main efforts to the securing of transportation of stores to Chattanooga. The great want of all ordinary supplies at the latter place, and the interruption of telegraphic communication with head-quarters, made this a very difficult work. Frequently an order would be obtained for ten or twenty wagons, but at the time it was presented they were not at the post, and before they came in a special order would be received by the quartermaster to load all wagons with forage or with rations, which would be construed as countermanding the previous order. We succeeded in getting off a few loads and a considerable supply by ambulances, which were got through in safety and supplied the more pressing demands.

THE HOSPITALS AT STEVENSON.

While at Stevenson, I took the opportunity of going frequently through the field hospitals in charge of Dr. McKibben, and found the sick and wounded there well provided for and very comfortable. The food provided was of excellent quality, abundant, and of good variety, and the cooking excellent. There were two kitchens for each ward, one for the full-diet patients, and one for those of special diet, both well arranged and well furnished. I have visited no hospitals in the department where there was a better variety of well-prepared food than there. Large supplies of vegetables were obtained from the garden at Murfreesboro', including potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, &c., &c., in abundance, and such other articles as were required from the Sanitary Rooms.

This garden at Murfreesboro' was one of the fruits of General Rosecrans's forethought. It was made and planted during the months of inaction which the army passed at that place.

STATE OF THINGS AT CHATTANOOGA.

On the 28th and 29th, we succeeded in forwarding from Stevenson and Bridgeport seventeen wagon-loads of stores, the trains to make a junction at Battle Creek, and go through in special charge of Mr. Larrabee, who left Stevenson for that purpose; Mr. Redding escorting the train from Bridgeport until they met.

Receiving word from Dr. Anderson at Chattanooga, who was in temporary charge of the general work of the department, to report at that place, I rode through from Bridgeport on the 3d, by the Conner route, expecting to find our rooms full of stores. But they were entirely empty. Our men were living on hard-tack, bacon, and coffee, which could be purchased, only a few rations at a time, of the Commissary; horses and men all on short rations, and hard-tack fast becoming a luxury. A train of about 400 wagons had been destroyed on the 2d, and with it our 17 wagons, and all other trains temporarily stopped. About this time the last of our wounded were sent in from the rebel lines, who had suffered much in rebel hands, and were in want of all things. Some of them were without shirts, a few without any clothing whatever, the most fortunate with torn clothing, begrimed with dust and clotted with

blood. I purchased at the only army clothing store in town a few shirts, all I could obtain, and mainly with money furnished by the Rev. Mr. Heywood, of the Kentucky Branch, and gave one each to Frederick Coonrad, 65th O. V. I.; Van Buren Young, 3d Ky. V. I.; Joseph Bray, 18th U. S. I.; A. Q. Logsden, 8th Ky. V. I.; John J. Thompson, 92d Ills., and N. Care, 84th Ind. Upon the 6th I received notice that 8 wagon-loads of stores were on the way, and on the 7th procured an order for twenty wagons more to report at our rooms in Stevenson, taking forward stores.

DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSPORTATION.

The work of obtaining transportation I found beset with many and unlooked-for difficulties. The loss of a large train and the interruption of communication had produced some confusion; the army was short of all supplies, and the responsible officers of every department were clamorous for transportation. At the same time it was evident that the wounded men left here, numbering about 1,400, must be saved, if at all, by feeding, and that they must have something better than army rations. The sick also, of whom there are many, not an unusual number, stand in almost equal need of better articles of diet. By engaging to ship only articles of diet for the sick and wounded, and after long efforts cordially and ably seconded by the surgeons in charge of the sick and wounded, I have secured a train of twenty wagons, to be now constantly under our supervision in bringing stores from Stevenson, as long as the necessity shall exist, or until river or railroad communication is opened. I would recommend that a trusty, efficient man be detailed to take charge of this train, accompanying it both coming and going, bringing the invoices of the goods shipped in each wagon, to guard against loss from any cause, to "cooper" packages that may be broken by the way, to see that the drivers are always provided with forage for their mules, that they are always well cared for, and that the wagons are put in thorough repair at the end of each trip. I would suggest also that you send us about 30 small white or yellow flags, marked "U. S. San. Com. Train," one to be carried by each wagon. This will advertise the train and frequently give it precedence over other trains in getting through, and might, perhaps, save a train from being captured, or if captured, prevent its destruction, under the hope of getting it through to Dixie, where there is even a greater demand for such stores than here; and as long as a captured train is not destroyed, there is hope of its recapture.

STATE OF THE HOSPITALS.

On the 9th the eight wagon-loads of stores reached us in good condition. Over 500 shirts were distributed the first day after they were opened, and for all the articles of clothing, dressings and edibles, there was an eager demand, far beyond the supply. I could not hope to distribute this shipment in such a manner as to avoid all complaint, when we were compelled to refuse to issue to many who really needed them, because there were others who needed them much more. Surgeons of regiments desired edibles and clothing for their sick, private soldiers who had lost their baggage asked to be clothed in part, and staff officers asked for shirts and drawers, that they might change those they had worn unwashed since the battle. All such requests we were compelled to refuse, and in accordance with the request of the Medical Director, and our own ideas of the comparative wants, to restrict our issues mainly to the most needy of the wounded, promising all others that their wants should be supplied as soon as it could possibly be done. All have seemed pleasantly to acquiesce in this arrangement, and if there has been any complaint it has not been brought to our notice.

The wounded are generally doing well, and bear with patience the privations that appear unavoidable, but a generous supply of edibles suitable for sick and wounded men, including stimulants, milk, beef, dried and canned fruits, patatoes and onions in large quantities, soft crackers, butter, cheese, pickles, green tea, farinaceous delicacies, &c., &c., are indispensable to their recovery. I trust that a supply of these articles will be ready at Stevenson, to fill at any time the 20 wagons, and as often as they can make the trip, and if more than that are accumulated there, we will undertake to get them through. There is a demand also for flannel shirts and drawers, sheets, blankets, &c., which, while the present pressure continues, we are not to forward in the "Sanitary Train." But let them be accumulated without stint at Stevenson, for we hope that communication by the river and by railroad will soon be opened. And I have requested the surgeons here, while waiting for that event, to make requisitions at every opportunity for articles of the latter description, upon the Agent at Stevenson, and in that way a very fair supply can be got through by ambulances and hospital wagons.

As you are aware, the occupation of the railroad for many days in transporting troops, and the subsequent raids upon it between Stevenson and Nashville, stopped for some time the receipt

of stores at Stevenson. The same events caused an unexpected accumulation of sick at the latter place, calling for large issues of sanitary stores there, leaving only enough to fill fifteen of the wagons ordered to report there. These are now on the way, and we look for their arrival to-morrow, the 14th. And as to the 20 wagons constituting our train having probably already reported at Stevenson, where we suppose there are now abundant supplies, we are in a measure relieved of anxiety, and anticipate a constant and tolerably abundant supply.

I have to-day received a note from Rev. O. Kennedy, who is aiding in our work, that he has reached his post on the west side of the mountain and pitched the tents for the soldiers' "Lodge." But to-day, the route by which the wounded are sent has been changed, and I have sent him directions to remove the Lodge to the foot of the mountain, in the Sequatchie Valley, on Poe's road, where there is a copious spring of good water, and where he will be enabled to feed all the sick and wounded who are sent north. Colonel Goddard is ever ready to aid us, forwarding the letter by a courier, sent with instructions to the couriers at the station nearest the Lodge, and about six miles from it, to forward it at once by special messenger.

Seventy-two ambulances leave with wounded to-day, and about seventy-five to-morrow. It is hoped Mr. Kennedy will get his Lodge removed in time to feed them all. Arrangements are made to secure prompt notice when trains of sick or wounded are to be started, which will be forwarded to Mr. Kennedy, by the couriers and by special messenger from the nearest courier station. This will enable him to be always ready to receive his guests.

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The answering of special inquiries by friends has again become an important part of the work here. All that have been received thus far have been answered, and in nearly every case the information has been definite and positive. But, frequently, considerable delay is inevitable. The hospitals are not yet thoroughly organized. There are three general hospitals for the wounded, while almost every division of the army has its two hospitals, one for the sick, and one for the wounded; yet in each of these will be found some men from nearly all of the other divisions. Frequently each of these hospitals, some of them three miles from the river on the other side, must be reached and then a visit made to the regiment before a definite answer can be returned. *Frequently mistakes in telegraphing the name lead us astray for a time, and in fact, accuracy in the name is the exception, not the rule, in all the inquiries we receive.* Too much care cannot be taken in preparing dispatches that they be accurate and very plainly written. If the rank, company, and regiment is correctly given, and any part of the name comes, the person meant can be identified when found, but any mistake in the name increases very much the difficulty in the way of finding him.

It is evident, unless a successful flank movement is made by the army, that all the most gravely wounded of the recent battles, and the usual number of sick of the army, will here require assistance from our stores for a long time. The greater part of the wounded now remaining must perish or recover here, unless some other route is opened for removing them besides the wagon-road over the mountains. They need and deserve a large and constant supply of such stores as are usually forwarded by the Commission. Without this, many will die, who, with it, would recover. Delicate and nourishing food, with a full supply of vegetables, is what, on the testimony of all the surgeons in charge, is most needed, and is really indispensable.

Knowing what you are doing and can do, I have promised that there shall soon be a supply either equal to the demand, or at least equal to the amount of transportation that can be procured between this point and Stevenson.

The seventeen wagon-loads of stores which were forwarded from Stevenson and Bridgeport, unhappily, never reached their destination. They were all captured on the way. Mr. Redding's account of the incident is as follows:

On the 28th ult., while I was at Bridgeport, Mr. Read sent me word from Stevenson that he had secured some wagons to send stores to the front, and to try if I could not procure ten wagons on an order from Capt. Warren, A. Q. M. at the latter place. I was unable to get them that day, but was promised them the following morning, and immediately telegraphed Mr. Read of the promise. His wagons were then loaded, sent out, and ordered to camp for the night two (2) miles beyond the place, so as to enable my train to catch them at Battle Creek or Jasper.

On the morning of the 29th I secured the ten wagons, loaded them, and telegraphed Mr. Read that there was no one to go in charge, and whether I should go. I waited several hours for a reply—no one came, and I then started my train, with orders to drive as fast as they could until they caught the train from Stevenson. I then telegraphed Mr. Read that I had started

the train, and about two (2) hours afterwards received the word to ride out until I overtook both trains, consolidate them, and place them in charge of Larrabee, then to return. Larrabee had been sent out after the receipt of my first dispatch, to go through with the train.

I then procured a horse, rode on and met the two (2) trains a short distance this side of Jasper, at sundown. We camped at Jasper for the night, and until *bedtime* I searched for Larrabee, but without success. On the following morning, the 30th, I had the two trains consolidated, started early, and kept a constant lookout for Larrabee, but at last concluded that further search would be without success, and decided to go through with the train myself. We camped that night within two miles of the foot of the mountain, and on the next morning, though subjected to a hard rain, started for the mountain. On arriving there, we found several trains already at its base, unable to proceed on account of a train being upon it with bad mules, broken-down wagons, and deep in mud. I examined the condition the train was in carefully, and concluded we would be detained several days by it unless we could find another road by which we could go on. It still continued to rain very hard, rendering this mountain road worse and worse, and the probability of this train getting over the mountain in four or five days very doubtful.

Seeing this, I called upon the Quartermasters of Negley's and Rousseau's trains to discuss the propriety of finding out and taking some other road. The plan was accepted, and horsemen were immediately sent out to look up and examine some other road. In the afternoon they returned and reported another road running through a valley to the left of the road we were on, equally as good as it, but about ten (10) miles longer. It was then decided by us to take this road on the next morning, the 2d.

Before breakfast on the 2d, the two trains spoken of left the mass of wagons at the foot of the mountain—a number having come in after us on the preceding day, and started out on this new road. By an accident, we were detained several hours, but about 9 o'clock we were ready to start, and I rode over to a house in the valley to our left to get some food for the trip. While over there, a man came dashing up to me and stated that a forage train had just been destroyed by the rebels near the foot of the mountain on this new road, and that Negley's and Rousseau's trains were returning, but was unable to give any particulars. I rode over to our camp and spread this news; all, however, believed it to be the work of a few guerrillas; that they would not dare to attack us in camp, as "we have enough teamsters to wipe them out without arms," said they; and they did not believe there could be any considerable body of rebels on that side of the river, believing the river was not fordable. I *knew it* to be fordable, having seen men crossing it for forage on my last trip to Bridgeport. So believing this, I started off to inform the 29th Indiana and another regiment of mounted infantry encamped between three or four miles to our rear, of the capture of the forage train, and of our danger; but after having gone about one mile, a man came dashing by me going to them, and he having a much swifter horse than my own, I gave way to him and returned to camp. I arrived at camp at 11 o'clock, and a few moments after a man came galloping in and stated that the rebels in large force were in sight just over the hill, dashing down the valley—and here allow me to say, that by the thoughtlessness and neglect of the person whose business it is to protect the supplies of this army, there was not a guard to any train present.

There were, according to the estimate of the Quartermasters of Negley's, Sheridan's and Rousseau's trains, about 400 wagons congregated at the foot of the mountain, and not one guard with them. There happened to be four or five companies of the 21st Kentucky on the mountain, which were immediately ordered to the foot to repel the rebels, or hold them in check until the reinforcements sent for arrived. As soon as the appearance of the rebels was made known, I ordered our wagons as near the base of the mountain as they could get, being very much scattered over the plain, thinking that the force present might be able to keep the rebels some distance off, and to prevent their burning them while the fight was going on. This was done, and I immediately started across the plain with the intention of getting in the rear of the rebels, watch the fight, and if they succeeded in whipping our men and in capturing the wagons, to see their commander and plead with him to spare our stores. I believed that if he was not a guerrilla, but had a spark of feeling for suffering beings in him, that I could kindle this spark into a flame, and that our stores should be spared. Although mounted, I made slow progress over the plains on account of the mass of wagons I had to pass through, and when about half way across, the rebels having formed their line of battle behind the hill I was trying to reach, appeared on its top, and without demanding a surrender, commenced firing upon the train. I being in the centre of the trains, or mass of wagons, and mounted, their balls

fell around me like hail. I could not carry out my plan then, without great risk of my life, so I wheeled around and made for the mountain. It was very steep where I struck it, and I had to lead my horse up. The Kentucky Infantry, by squads, formed themselves along the side of the mountain, and poured a sharp fire into the rebels; but their great superiority in numbers, their gradual approach on the train, and the fact that they intended to surround us and cut off the retreat of every man, which I plainly saw they were endeavoring to do, naturally induced me to "*skedaddle*" over the mountain as rapidly as possible. I went down the road for about three-quarters of a mile from its base, and there remained until the firing had ceased, then started back with the intention of saving our stores if they were not already destroyed, if I had to put myself in their hands to do it. On arriving at a point from which I could see a portion of the plain, I saw the main body of the rebels moving off in the direction of Jasper, while another body were moving off with the prisoners in the direction from which they came. I knew then we were defeated, and feared the wagons were already burned. Presently the Wagon-Master of my train, having been in and escaped from the fight, came along and told me that nearly all of our wagons were on fire when he left, the rebels having taken some of them to contain army supplies, I suppose, or they would never have burned them, and that they had found out the contents of some of them, and were feasting upon them. Most of our wagons were filled with fodder, which the rebels did not take the trouble and time to remove; while some had none in them. The former they had burned before the Wagon-Master of my train left, as already stated; and the latter they feasted upon, eating and drinking, and "a merrier set," our Wagon-Master said, "was never seen." He also stated that the rebels had sent a detachment around the mountain to a point where another road joins the road on the mountain, to cut off and capture those that had escaped from the fight, and that unless we could reach that point before they did, we would certainly fall into their hands. A Captain of the 21st Kentucky, who had escaped, asserted the same, and believing it to be useless then to put myself into the hands of a drunken set of brutes for the few stores that probably remained, and considering the consequences of such an act, I therefore decided to start for Chattanooga. We rushed our horses on until beyond the junction of the road spoken of with the one we were on, and the same night, at 10 o'clock, safely reached this place.

The force of the rebels, the attacking body and the reserve, is estimated at from four to twelve thousand. My own estimate and that of nearly all I have seen and conversed with who were in the fight, is about four thousand under Wheeler. Several trains that were in camp with us when the destruction of the forage train was announced, retreated in the direction of Jasper; but the body of rebels spoken of moved off in that direction after the capture of our stores, came upon and destroyed them. Dr. Castleman was in the fight with one or both of these, and was captured. He asserts, that had he known that we had stores at the mountain, he could have saved them. This is questionable, however, as he was several miles distant from the foot of the mountain at the time of the capture of our stores.

October 18th, Mr. Read writes once more of the difficulty of transportation, the great difficulty of this Western campaigning:

I have written you at every opportunity, and frequently by mail, often repeating what I have written on account of irregularities in the mails.

As I have written and telegraphed, I deem it of absolute importance that we have a reliable, energetic, hardy man, to act as Wagon-Master of our train, to accompany it on all its trips over the mountain. A casual agent is good for nothing for such a purpose; for, in every instance thus far, they have abandoned the train as soon as they got within hailing distance of Chattanooga, and come to our rooms to report that the *train was coming*, and left everything to the honesty (?) of drivers and wagon-masters.

The fifteen wagon-loads have arrived and will be unloaded at our rooms this morning, robbed of all the stimulants and many other articles. Col. McRay has sent in a report of the robbery, and I shall do so as soon as I have taken an inventory and know specially what has been stolen. We need goods much faster than they get through, and our means of transportation from Stevenson are in excess over the arrivals there. We shall lose our train unless we can keep it filled.

On the 24th he gives some information as to where the stores captured by the enemy came from.

In my letter of the 12th, I gave you in haste and in detail an account of the capture and destruction of our train of stores; but having seen a statement in the *Louisville Journal* of the 14th, made by Col. Shyrock, of Indiana, which you may not have seen, and

which is incorrect, and, I think, discouraging to some of our "home workers," as it throws the entire loss upon the shoulders of *one single body*, I wish to call your attention to it for correction, if you think proper, and also to write a few lines in regard to matters here. The statement referred to, given by Mr. Sargent to Col. Shyrock, was, that "we lost in the attack 39 wagon-loads of stores from the Chicago Sanitary Commission." This is, for the most part, I know, incorrect. There were only eighteen (18) instead of thirty-nine (39) wagon-loads, as you already know; and in regard to the receipt of the stores alone from Chicago, the ten (10) wagons I sent from Bridgeport were loaded about equally with goods from Cleveland Aid Society, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Indiana Commissions, but none from Chicago. In those sent from Stevenson, there may have been Chicago stores, but most I know were either purchased or contributed at Louisville. The number of packages sent from Bridgeport was 69; the number from Stevenson I do not know, as no invoice was sent with the goods, and none has ever reached this office to my knowledge. I merely state this in contradiction to an error or misstatement which it may be well to correct.

SUFFERINGS OF THE TROOPS.

Since writing you last, we have again moved our rooms; the buildings we were in being used as Palmer's Division Hospital, and quite a number of sick coming in from the division, demanded more room; so at the request of Dr. Perrin, Medical Director, we vacated it, having this house first secured us.

The sanitary condition of this army is anything but good now. By reason of the heavy rains we have had for the last ten days, the wagon-roads to Stevenson are rendered almost impassable, and consequently the Commissaries are reduced to almost nothing, and the army is drawn down to half rations. The nights are very damp and cold, and many soldiers appeal here daily for blankets, having lost theirs in the battle, who, under the circumstances, are unable to get them, and have to sleep without covering. We have none, the Purveyor has none, and they are not to be had at all of any one. Sickness is increasing, but diarrhœa seems to be the universal plague, and is increasing, and vegetables! is the great cry; but at the same time, all articles that make good diet are in great demand.

PLUNDER OF THE WAGONS BY THE TEAMSTERS.

On the 10th, a shipment of ten (10) wagons was made at Stevenson, which reached this place (I would say a portion of which) on the 19th, having been subjected to hard rains and pillage. While on the mountain, the teamsters of our train—75 in number—concluded they must have a spree, even at the expense of the sick and dying soldiers, and appropriated or destroyed nine-tenths of all the stimulants and delicacies in the shipment. Only eleven (11) wagon-loads arrived here. The exact amount pillaged I gave in a report to Col. Goddard, who says "they will never drive a team again for the Army of the Cumberland." The amount destroyed is as follows:

346 cans Milk,
236 bottles Wine and Spirits,
21 " Cider,
101 " Ale,
56 cans Oysters,
15 " Fruit,
16 " Beef and 2 Cheeses.
Also, 2 barrels and 1 box Crackers,
1 " Lemon Syrup,
1 " Sundries.

I think these teamsters will meet their reward. By this shipment we received a tolerable good supply of shirts, and over a thousand (1,000) poor soldiers have already exchanged their bloody ones for these.

This being the only shipment made us since I wrote you last, our shelves are again nearly empty, having nothing of consequence except about four hundred (400) cans of milk. There is a fair supply at Stevenson, and so soon as the roads get better, we will receive again. Active preparations are going on for clearing the river of rebels, so as to have boats ply between here and Bridgeport to bring forward stores. *It must be done*, and a desperate effort will be made to do it. I learn from good authority to-day that a division leaves very soon to drive the rebels from Lookout Mountain. Ere this reaches you, I think and believe boats will be running to Bridgeport, and then a depot will again be necessary there.

SANITARY HINTS.

SPECIAL DISINFECTANTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS.

That there can be no substitute for *fresh air* to meet the physiological requirements of respiration and health, should be indelibly impressed upon every mind. Better that all substances at present employed as disinfectants and deodorants were at once prohibited by the Medical Department, than that such agents should practically

tend to be regarded as *substitutes for a pure atmosphere.* But the necessities and privations of army life, the multiplied agencies of disease, and the vitiating conditions attendant upon wounds and sickness, create necessities for the employment of chemical and other artificial agencies to mitigate, and, in some measure, prevent the otherwise inevitable contamination of the local atmosphere of crowded hospitals, transports, and quarters; and it is only such necessary demands for the employment of disinfectants that justify even the occasional allusion we have made respecting them in preceding pages. They are simply aids in restoring and preserving healthful purity, and not substitutes for cleanliness and pure air.

For the convenience of persons who may have occasion to refresh the memory with the more practical facts relating to special disinfectants, and the best method of their application, the following notes are added in reference to this subject:

The principal disinfecting agents may be classified as follows:

Absorbents and retainers of noxious effluvia, particularly the ammoniacal and sulphuretted gases.	Charcoal, Sulphate of Lime (Plaster Sulphite of Lime, [Paris,) Silicate of Alumina (Porous Clay.)
Absorbents of moisture; chemical agents that act upon organic matter, and recombine some of the elements of noxious effluvia.	Quicklime, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Nitric and Nitrous Acids.
Soluble salts that are particularly available for arresting processes of decomposition, and for controlling phosphuretted and sulphuretted gases.	Nitrate of Lead, Chloride of Zinc, Proto-Chloride of Iron, Proto-Sulphate of Iron.
Antiseptics that act diffusively and rapidly, though less permanently than some others. Active in destroying compound gases.	Chlorine Gas, Hypochlorite of Soda (*Labarraque's solution,*) Chloride of Lime.
The most prompt and efficient antiseptic known.	Bromine.
Antiseptic, and of great power as an oxidizer, and as an available source of ozone.	Permanganate of Potassa.
Antiseptic and deodorant; capable of a great variety, extent, and economy of applications, and acting with considerable energy and permanency	Carbolic Acid and Coal-tar compounds.
Destructive of contagious virus and all transportable infections.	Heat.
Destructive of Yellow Fever miasma, and of the malaria that produces the "Paludal Fevers."	Frost.

Considered *theoretically*, we may regard all disinfecting agents under the following heads, and perhaps this would be the more scientific arrangement of them:—1. *Absorbents of moisture and of noxious effluvia;* 2. *Oxidizers* [ozone the most active,] *and Deoxidizers;* 3. *Other chemical agents that break up noxious compounds;* 4. *Agents that form indestructible compounds with putrescent materials; or that destroy cell-life and the cryptogamic and infusorial organisms.* But as the present state of chemical and medical knowledge only enables us to make such general statements respecting the theoretical action of disinfectants, we will follow our first classification by a few practical statements concerning each of the articles mentioned.

Charcoal.—Freshly burned and broken, this substance will absorb from 10 to 14 *per cent. its own weight* of gases and moisture from the atmosphere during the period of 24 hours; and it is capable of absorbing 90 times its own volume of ammonia, or 55 times its own volume of sulphuretted hydrogen. Properly applied, charcoal is an arrester of putrefaction, and, as such, it is worthy of more extensive employment in the better preservation of animal food when served out in an unwholesome state by the regimental quartermasters. As a disinfectant or deodorant for extensive use in masses of putrescent material, and for local purification, fresh charcoal is of acknowledged value. The British Sanitary Commission, in the Crimea, ordered whole ship-loads of peat charcoal, which they used in the progress of their work of purification in the hospitals, barracks, or camps in the East. A Report of that Commission states that "perhaps the best deodorizing compound was one used by the inspectors in all their works. It consisted of *one part of peat charcoal, one part of quicklime, and four parts of sand or gravel.*" It should be remembered that the preservation of the disinfecting power of charcoal powder depends upon its being both fresh and dry.

Sulphate of Lime, Sulphite of Lime, and Porous Clay. — All these substances are valuable absorbents of ammoniacal and sulphuretted effluvia, and they constitute exceedingly convenient vehicles and auxiliary menstrua for some of the more potent and expensive antiseptics. The much vaunted French disinfectant, known as the disinfecting powder of Messrs. Corné & Demeaux, consists of about 94 per cent. of finely ground gypsum and 5 or 6 per cent. of coal-tar or the "heavy oil of coal-tar." McDougall's powder, and the Ridgewood disinfectant, consist of carbolic acid combined with the sulphate of lime and porous silicate of alumina, respectively, as will be noticed upon a subsequent page. Hyposulphite of lime possesses the property of absolutely arresting fermentation or the catalytic processes. The several substances of this first class, and their compounds, particularly those with carbolic acid or coal-tar, are among the most valuable disinfectants, especially when large quantities of cheap and effectual articles of the kind are required.

Quicklime.—With sulphuretted and with

phosphuretted effluvia, and with humid vapors, freshly burned lime unites with great avidity, and as an absorbent of moisture and a chemical base for many acids, it is of peculiar value; but lime also eliminates or sets free the ammoniacal gases, and, like the acids of our second class of disinfectants, it is of *less permanent* value than some other agents. It is one of the most convenient antiseptics, and for local applications, as in whitewashing, sprinkling, desiccating damp surfaces or putrescent substances, and for temporarily arresting putrefaction, it is invaluable. Lime should be used dry and unslacked, except it be for the special purpose of combining with carbonic acid gas; for the latter object it should be reduced to a creamy hydrate, and, in overcrowded wards and barracks, it may be usefully employed in this way, distributed in shallow plates. Distributed in like manner, *sulphuric acid* may be employed for diminishing the humidity of the atmosphere in a closed and damp apartment; but for this purpose it is usually better to resort to strong currents of air, by means of through and through ventilation, when practicable.

The topical applications of the acids, particularly of the *nitric acid*, in arresting gangrene, are well understood by surgeons. *Nitrous acid* is a valuable antiseptic, and the production and application of its fumes constituted the famous disinfecting process of Dr. Carmichael Smyth.

The *fumes of nitrous acid* that so long had fame for disinfecting purposes in the barracks, hospitals, and navy of Great Britain may be readily produced by heating a mixture of nitrate of potassa and sulphuric acid in an iron or porcelain dish. Persons who resort to this method of fumigation should bear in mind the fact that strong fumes of nitrous acid are dangerously irritating to the throat and lungs. These fuming acids are powerful oxidizers, but their avidity for water, together with their peculiarities of chemical affinity, render their value as disinfectants somewhat uncertain.

Nitrate of Lead.—Practical considerations place this salt at the head of odorless disinfecting salts most available for certain local applications, such as deodorizing a close apartment, and the bedding, &c., of sick persons, by means of a solution distributed on shallow vessels or upon saturated cloths. The nitrate of lead is the basis of "Ledoyen's liquid."

The *permanganate of potassa* is far the most efficient salt of this kind, and its cost alone should limit its employment. It is a chemical agent of different and far greater powers than any of the metallic salts in this third class.

Chloride of Zinc.—Though more powerfully antiseptic than nitrate of lead, it is not as valuable a deodorant. It is most to be valued for its property of promptly arresting putrefactive processes. As "Sir Wm. Burnett's disinfectant," it is widely known.

Both this salt, and that of lead, last mentioned, may be employed to delay decomposition in a corpse, in the absence of an embalmer. This is best accomplished by wrapping the dead body in a folded sheet that is saturated with either of these salts.

The Proto-chloride and the Proto-sulphate of Iron.—These are valuable and very cheap agents for aiding in the control of ammoniacal and sulphuretted effluvia. Being soluble, and very cheap, these salts are capable of varied and convenient applications, separately, or in combination with other deodorizing materials.

Chlorine and its alkaline compounds.—The common preparations of chlorinated soda and chloride of lime act with great efficiency when the carbonic, sulphuretted, or ammoniacal gases are brought into contact with them. As their special uses require no explanation in this place, we simply append brief directions for generating chlorine gas where it may be required more immediately and copiously than it would be given off by the alkaline chlorides or hypochlorites.

Ready method.—Pour dilute hydrochloric, sulphuric, nitric, or acetic acid upon chlorides of lime, zinc, or soda. This may be done gradually by means of a glass or lead syphon, or by the capillary syphon of lamp-wick, dropping the acid upon the chloride, if desirable to evolve the chlorine steadily for many hours.

Cheap method.—Mix 6 parts of peroxide of manganese with 8 parts of table salt (chloride of sodium) in a lead or iron vessel, which should be set freely within another vessel of larger capacity; pour upon the mixture of manganese and salt 13 parts of sulphuric acid, which may be diluted with water to abate the rapidity of the evolution of the gas. Heat the vessel containing this mixture by means of hot water or steam, if more rapid evolution of the gas is required.

Ordinary method.—Mix four parts of fuming hydrochloric (muriatic) acid with one part of coarse powder of peroxide of manganese, adding water, as may be desired, to abate the rapidity of evolution. Apply moderate heat. The vessel may be of a kind to permit the use of the acid and the heat. The heat, however, by this method, is not indispensable.

A very neat method of evolving chlorine in hospitals and transports, is to put a few ounces of the black oxide of manganese into a stout glass bottle of large size, rig a bulbous pipette to a perforated cork or stopper, and fitting an india-rubber bulb

upon the headless bulb of the pipette, fill the pipette with muriatic acid, and evolve the chlorine at pleasure by occasional pressure upon the elastic cap.

Bromine and its compounds.—This most powerful antiseptic has recently been brought into requisition in the military hospitals as a special disinfectant and arrester of gangrene. It is applied both topically and diffusively. Bromine is exceedingly penetrating and energetic in its action, and consequently is to be manipulated and applied with proper caution. It is principally employed in its pure liquid form, or in combination with bromide of potassium. Special caution should be used not to respire the strong fumes or any pulverized compound of bromine, as its effects when inhaled are suffocating. The following concise statement of the best methods for applying this potent disinfectant we quote from Dr. M. Goldsmith, Medical Director of Military Hospitals at Louisville, Ky., to whom the medical profession is largely indebted for its successful introduction as a topical and prophylactic agent for the control of hospital gangrene and erysipelas:

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

1. *For Fumigation.*—Place vessels, containing *one ounce* of the solution at different points of the ward, and in number sufficient to secure in the latter the constant presence of the odor of bromine.

It should be borne in mind that, if the vapor of bromine comes in contact with the vapor of water, hydro-bromic acid is formed; therefore, when there is much of the vapor of water disengaged in the apartment, the quantity of the vapor of bromine must be correspondingly increased.

2. *Topical Application of the Vapor.*—A piece of *dry* lint is to be placed over the diseased part; over this is to be placed another piece of lint, *moistened with the solution of bromine;* over this, a *third* piece *spread with simple cerate;* the whole to be covered with oiled silk and bandage, so arranged as to retain the vapor in contact with the diseased surface as long as possible. The solution is to be removed as often as it becomes exhausted by evaporation.

3. *The Solution, in Substance, as a direct Application, in Hospital Gangrene, Diphtheria, Gangrene of the Tongue,* and other diseases of this nature:—The parts are first to be dried by the application of charpie; then the sloughs, if thick, should be trimmed out with forceps and scissors as much as possible, for the thinner the slough the more effective is the remedy. The parts having again been dried, the solution is applied by means of a mop, or a pointed stick of wood, in quantity sufficient to saturate the sloughs. If the sloughs undermine the skin, or dip down into intermuscular spaces, the solution must be made to follow, with the pointed stick, or by means of a glass syringe.

If the application has been effectual, all odor from the diseased surface ceases, and the sloughs become somewhat hardened. The remedy should be reapplied every second hour, as long as any odor of putrefaction is present, or as long as the sloughs appear to be diffluent. It is not always necessary, especially when the sloughs are diffluent and thin, to use the solution in its full strength; it may be weakened by the addition of water, as the disease subsides.

The points to be especially attended to, in the use of the solution of bromine, are two: 1. The solution should be applied in strength and frequency sufficient for the impregnation of *the whole of the sloughs;* 2. To secure this end, the application *should be made by the surgeon himself,* and never be trusted to a nurse. If the sloughs are thick and cannot well be trimmed, the bromine may be introduced into the thickness of the slough by means of a hypodermic syringe.

After the topical application of the solution, the parts, when so situated as to render it practicable, should be subjected to the influence of the vapor. (See par. 1.)

Surgeons will do well to bear in mind that bromine is a new remedy for the purposes indicated above. The directions for its use, given here, are those followed in the military hospitals of this city; it may be found advisable to modify them as experience with the remedy accumulates. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that the subject be studied diligently, that the effects of the remedy be carefully watched, and that the application be varied as new facts are developed in its use.

The investigation of the evidences respecting the antiseptic and prophylactic powers of this new disinfectant has reasonably confirmed the opinion of its great utility. But to secure its beneficial effects, its application should be made with proper care and thoroughness. It claims to arrest the destructive progress of gangrene, erysipelas, etc., and utterly to destroy the personal and the diffused virus of such maladies. To accomplish this effectually, the bromine must be applied to every . . cule of the virus, and this is to be effected by means of the pipette syringe, the pointed stick, the scissors, and the solution, for local applications; and by its pungent and volatile vapors in wards and other infected places. This disinfectant certainly promises to be a great boon to our military hospitals.

Permanganate of Potassa.—A special order from the Medical Bureau at Washington [*Circular*, No. 12,] calls the attention

of medical officers to "the virtues of permanganate of potassa as a disinfectant and deodorizer." This is a soluble substance peculiarly convenient of application and remarkably certain and efficient in its effects as a disinfectant. Its employment as a deodorizer and prophylactic is limited mainly to topical applications, to gangrenous parts or putrescent materials, and to general effect upon the atmosphere of contaminated apartments, by means of evaporating cloths saturated with a strong solution of the permanganate. The oxidizing and antiseptic effects of the permanganate of potassa upon organic and putrescent matter are remarkable. It is the most sensitive test for the presence of organic matter, which it oxidizes with wonderful facility. [*See remarks upon this subject in Hammond's Hygiene.*] As this is an expensive and delicate substance, it is to be employed economically, upon saturated cloths or in dilute solutions upon plates. For purifying offensive water for purposes of beverage, etc., a standard solution should be dropped into the vessel of water, *until the tinge of the permanganate begins to appear.* The rapid and effectual oxidation of the organic (*putrid*) elements of impure water and other substances, even of the atmosphere itself, when brought in contact with solutions of this salt, and the consequent and almost instant deodorization of such impurities, render this disinfectant of priceless value for practical purposes. And as all preparations of manganese are therapeutically tonic, probably the minute quantities of this salt that would be taken in drinking the water purified as above described, would only act beneficially. "Condy's Disinfectant," "Darby's Fluid," and all the vaunted preparations of "Ozonized water," etc., are but solutions of permanganates. The salts are cheaper and more reliable than such nostrums, and are now supplied by all medical purveyors in the army.

Coal-tar Compounds — Carbolates. — The carbolate of lime has been employed to some extent in our camps and hospitals. McDougall's powder consists of carbolate of lime, sulphate of lime, quick-lime, etc. The Ridgewood disinfectant consists of carbolic acid, proto-chloride of iron, etc., combined with fullers' earth. Either of these, which are furnished by the medical purveyors, appear to be quite as valuable as the more expensive article of MM. Corné and Demeaux, which is used at the Imperial Camp at Châlons, and was found highly serviceable by Barron Larrey, after the great battles of the late Italian campaign. Coal-tar, in almost any form, is available for disinfecting sewers, etc., and in the dry powders mentioned, it is available for delaying the process of decomposition, whether in a corpse, or in refuse material. Carbolic acid has the antiseptic powers of creasote, and is largely sold for that article. The antiseptic properties of coal-tar, its effect upon mephitic gases and putrescent material, the permanency of its operation, and the cheapness of the article, render it available for extensive application in neutralizing and arresting cloacal and noxious effluvia in the processes of animal decomposition. A distinguished Medical Inspector of our army, when cut off from ordinary medical supplies, effectually and quickly abated the nuisances pertaining to an extensive old fortress, by means of an extemporized mixture of coal-tar, procured from the gas-works upon the premises. For use in chamber vessels, close-stools, etc., a neat fluid preparation may be made, after the formula of M. Demeaux, by mixing equal parts of coal-tar, alcohol, and hot soft soap. With the progress of knowledge respecting the chemistry of coal-tar and other hydro-carbons, the precise value of this class of disinfectants will be better understood. Coal-tar certainly has remarkable efficacy in arresting putrescence and controlling its effluvia.

Heat.—As a means of immediate disinfection of contaminated garments, bedding, and even of close apartments, ships, etc., heat is at once a cheap and most effectual method. The boiling of infected clothing, etc., is admitted to effectually destroy any contagious poison. And practically, upon a large scale in such work, experience proves it is best to employ steam as the means of heating. Upon this subject, see remarks and plans of M. Baudens [*Hospitals and Health of Troops*, Am. ed., pp. 238–204]; also, a Report on Heat as a disinfectant, in the Transactions of the National Sanitary Convention, 1860. It is probable that no circumstance contributes more directly to the perpetuation and spread of the typhus poison, than the accumulation and bad management of contaminated clothing, etc., that ought, under all circumstances, to be purified as soon as it leaves the patient or the bed.

Frost or Low Temperature, when continued a sufficient length of time, will effectually destroy both the miasma that produces yellow fever, and the paludal malaria that produces intermittent and remittent fevers; but such low temperature has no effect to arrest those fevers in the persons suffering them. It is worthy of note, that a freezing temperature does not appear to mitigate the activity of the personally infectious poisons, or contagions; though, with certain exceptions, it arrests putrefaction and the catalytic or fermentative processes.

For the Commission:

ELISHA HARRIS, M.D.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
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A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
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F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.

Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.

Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.

Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.

Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.

Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.

Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.

Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C.W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Sup't.

AGENCY FOR PENSIONS.

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Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M. D., Surgeon in charge.

Between Louisville and Murfreesboro'—Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in charge.

SANITARY STEAMERS.

Mississippi River—Clara Bell; Cumberland River—New Dunleith; Potomac River—Elizabeth.

THE

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 10,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

THE GREAT NORTHWESTERN SANITARY FAIR.

Some hundred thousand people of the great Northwest have just been drawn together at Chicago by a Fair, under the immediate auspices of the "Chicago Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission." It has been glorious!—this great tide, not of people only or chiefly, but of sympathy and of thought and of feeling, which has rolled in from hundreds of miles over those wide prairies, and along the foot of the distant hills! To one who stood there, looking on, it came like a great whelming torrent of love and power, and solemn earnestness, which was irresistible, carrying everything before it. All who were present unite in saying that they never before realized so fully the consciousness and the exhilarating and invigorating effect of breathing, as it were, an atmosphere which was literally filled with generous emotions and moral earnestness, and where every other element was absorbed or neutralized.

So quietly had the whole affair been arranged, and with such excellent method conducted, that when this immense concourse of people poured in from Illinois and Indiana, from Michigan and Missouri, from Wisconsin and Iowa, bearing their gifts with them, it seemed as if some sudden and mysterious impulse had taken hold of one-quarter of the whole nation, who had suddenly sprung to their feet, seized whatever of goods or riches were nearest at hand, and rushed forth led by music and banners; and when, at last, from all quarters they had met at the gathering-place, to which they had been instinctively drawn in their hurried march, they had, as by common consent, or a certain divine impulse, without asking why, laid down their treasures, simply feeling that God's altar needed these for burnt-offering—so generous, and earnest, and full of a certain kind of contagious faith seemed these men and women who were gathered there; and that was just the secret of the whole, which made it all so real to every one who was present, while to those who were not there, the narration of the facts must needs seem exaggerated and unreal; it was this irresistible evidence, told by eye, and step, and tongue, and hand—evidence of an immense faith—immense as taken in the mass—faith in God, faith in the nation's life, faith in our armies, faith in our leaders, faith in our people at home.

The contributions to the Fair, to be sold for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers, were large, were munificent, but it was this tone of deep-seated earnestness which was largest. It was not merely what men and women said and did, but the *way* the thing was done, which carried with it this impression of wholesale generosity of spirit. Delicately wrought articles, such as usually adorn the tables of Fairs, the work of ladies' hands, were not wanting; but then the farmers from miles and miles around kept coming in with their wagons by twenties, and fifties, and hundreds,

loaded down with their bulky farm produce; others came leading horses, or driving before them cows, or oxen, or mules, which they contributed instead of money, of which, perhaps, they had none; others brought live poultry which had been fed for months by the poor man's door; they brought this because they must bring something, and this was all they had. Some wagons were loaded from rich dairies, with butter and cheese by the ton. Then came great loads of hay from some distant farm, followed by others just as large from farms farther off. The mechanics brought their machines, and gave them in, one after another;—mowing machines, reapers, threshing machines, planters, pumps, fanning-mills—until a new building, a great storehouse, had to be erected to receive them; and here were ploughs, and stoves, and furnaces, and mill-stones, and nails by the hundred kegs, and wagons, and carriage springs,—and axes, and plate glass, and huge plates of wrought iron, (one the largest that was ever rolled from any rolling-mill in the world,) block tin and enameled leather, hides, boxes of stationery, and cases of boots, cologne by the barrel, native wine in casks, purified coal-oil by the thousand gallons—a mountain howitzer, a steel breech-loading cannon, a steam-engine made by the working-men in one of the manufactories of engines in Chicago—and on it this inscription—"This engine is donated by the workmen of the Eagle Works Manufacturing Co., every man contributing something—not one Copperhead in the whole institution." There, too, were other machines which had been built by employés of various establishments, who had worked "after hours" to construct something for the Soldiers' Fair. Such, with a thousand other gifts great and small, filled this new storehouse, where liberal purchasers were found waiting. Then, again, the carpenters and joiners, who, in the press of work upon unfinished buildings, could not leave their hammer and saw to go to the Fair, joined together by tens and twenties, and set apart a day of which they would give their earnings to the soldiers. In like manner, different firms would advertise a sale for the benefit of the Fair. Thus, "To the Loyal Stone-Masons of Chicago:" "We propose to donate to the Northwestern Sanitary Fair the entire proceeds of the sale of one canal boat load (20 tons) of our first-class rubble stone. Bids for the same will be received at our office till Friday next."

Signed ——, &c.

Then loaded wagons came in long processions, toiling into the city, from far-off country places, bearing marks of frontier service, and the horses or mules, together with the drivers themselves, most of them told of wear. Many of them were sun-burnt men, with hard hands and rigid features; and a careless observer would have said that there was surely nothing in those wagons, as they passed, to awaken any sentiment. Yet something there was about it all which brought tears to the eyes of hundreds as the old farmers with their heavy loads toiled by. Among the crowd of spectators there was noticed a broad-shouldered Dutchman, with a face expressive of anything but thought or feeling; he gazed at this singular procession as it passed,—the sun-burnt farmers, and the long, narrow wagons, and the endless variety of vegetables and farm produce,—he gazed there as these men with their sober faces and their homely gifts passed one by one, until when, finally, the last wagon had moved by, this stolid, lethargic-looking man "broke down" with a flood of tears, and could say nothing and do nothing but seize upon the little child whom he held by the hand, and hug her to his heart, trying to hide his manly tears behind her floating curls.

Among these wagons which had drawn up near the rooms of the Sanitary Commission to unload their stores, was one peculiar for its exceeding look of poverty; it was worn and mended, and was originally made merely of poles. It was drawn by three horses which had seen much of life, but little grain. The driver was a man past middle age, with the clothes and look of one who toiled hard, but he had a thoughtful and kindly face. He sat there quietly waiting his turn to unload. By his side, with feet over the front of the wagon, for it was filled very full, was his wife, a silent, worn-looking woman, (many of these men had their wives with them on

the loads;) near the rear of the wagon was a girl of fifteen, perhaps, and her sister, dressed in black, carrying in her arms a little child.

Some one said to this man, (after asking the woman with the child if she would not go into the Commission rooms and get warm:) "My friend, you seem to have quite a load here of vegetables; now I am curious to know what good things you are bringing to the soldiers; will you tell me what you have?" "Yes," said he: "here are potatoes, and here are three bags of onions, and there are some ruta-baga, and there a few turnips, and that is a small bag of meal, and you can see the cabbages fill in; and that box with slats has some ducks in it, which one of them brought in." "Oh! then, this isn't all your load alone, is it?" "Why no! our region just where I live is rather a hard soil, and we haven't any of us much to spare any way, yet for this business we could have raked up as much again as this is, if we had had time; but we didn't get the notice that the wagons were going in till last night about eight o'clock, and it was dark and raining at that, so I and my wife and the girls could only go round to five or six of the neighbors within a mile or so, but we did the best we could; we worked pretty much all the night and loaded, so as to be ready to get out to the main road and start with the rest of them this morning; but I can't help it if it is little, it's *something* for those soldiers." "Have you a son in the army?" "No," he answered slowly, after turning round and looking at his wife. "No, I haven't *now*, but we had one there once; he's buried down by Stone River: he was shot there; —and that isn't just so either—we called him our boy, but he was only our adopted son; we took him when he was little, so he was just the same as our own boy, and" (pointing over his shoulder without looking back) "that's his wife there with the baby! But I shouldn't bring these things any quicker if he were alive now and in the army; I don't know that I should think so much as I do now about the boys away off there." It was in turn for his wagon to unload, so with his rough freight of produce, and his rich freight of human hearts with their deep and treasured griefs, he drove on—one wagon of a hundred in the train.

As a proof of the interest felt by the people of Chicago in this Sanitary Fair, it may be mentioned that on the day the Fair opened, October 27th, the several courts of the city adjourned over the day, the post-office was closed, the Board of Trade adjourned, the public schools were not opened, the banks of the city closed, business of all kinds, whether in the offices, stores, shops, or manufactories, was suspended.

The following extract from the *Chicago Tribune*, one of the leading papers of the West, gives a living picture of that procession as it gathered up its forces and moved on, three miles in length:

"Yesterday will never be forgotten either in the city of Chicago or in the West. Memorable it will remain both as history and as patriotism. Such a sight was never seen before in the West upon any occasion; and we doubt whether a more magnificent spectacle was ever presented in the streets of the Empire City itself, than that vast procession of chariots and horsemen, country wagons and vehicles, civic orders and military companies, both horse and foot, which converted Chicago for the time being into a vast theatre of wonders.

"From the earliest dawn of the day the heart of the mighty city was awake, and long before eight o'clock the streets were thronged with people—citizens hurried excitedly to and fro; and country women, with their children, came in early in the morning, with colors tied to their bridles and decorating their wagons, and with miniature flags and banners on their horses' heads. On the house-tops, on the public buildings, flaunted the glorious flag of liberty. By nine o'clock the city was in a roar; the vast hum of multitudinous voices filled the atmosphere. Drums beat in all parts of the city summoning the various processions, or accompanying them to the grand central rendezvous. Bands of music playing patriotic tunes—bands of young men and women, singing patriotic songs, enlivened the streets. Every pathway was jammed up with human bodies, so that it was with extreme difficulty any headway could be made.

"The procession was advertised to assemble at nine o'clock precisely, and was composed of nine divisions, formed in the following order:

The First Division formed on Michigan Avenue—the right resting on Lake.

The Second Division formed on Wabash Avenue—right resting on Lake.

The Third Division on State Street—right resting on Lake.

The Fourth Division formed on Dearborn Street—right resting on Lake.

The Fifth Division formed on Clark Street—right resting on Lake.

The Sixth Division formed on Lasalle Street—right resting on Lake.

The Seventh Division formed on Wells Street—right resting on Lake.

The Eighth Division formed on Franklin Street, the right resting on Lake.

The Ninth Division formed on Market Street, the right resting on Lake Street, extending to Madison Street Bridge.

"As near ten o'clock as possible it started, banners flying, drums rolling, and all manner of brazen instruments stirring the air, and the hearts of the vast multitudes of people, with thrilling, exciting music. On it came, that mighty pageant! following the course laid down in the printed programme:

"From Michigan Avenue west on Lake to Market Street; on Market Street south to Washington Street; on Washington east to Clark Street; on Clark south to Harrison Street; on Harrison Street east to Michigan Avenue; north on Michigan Avenue to Lake Street; west on Lake Street to Lasalle; south on Lasalle to the Court-House Square.

"Such earnest enthusiasm as accompanied the procession, from first to last, has rarely been witnessed on any occasion. It was a grand and sublime protest on behalf of the people against the poltroons and traitors who were enemies to the Government, and opposed to the war. Bursts of patriotic feeling came from many a loyal bosom on that memorable and never-to-be-forgotten day. The people seemed to overflow with loyalty, and could not contain themselves. For a long time they had been silent, nursing their wrath, keeping alive their love for the old flag, keeping alive also their hatred of those that hated it—who had so long fired upon it in the rear—finding nowhere, in no event, in no newspaper, any adequate utterance of their passionate feelings. Now the mighty eloquence of that majestic and sublime procession spoke for them! That was the thing which they all along wanted to say—but could not! They were in themselves ciphers, mere units of the nation; but there, in all those thousands of men, they saw themselves multiplied into an incalculable, irresistible host, and felt that their hour of triumphant speech had come at last! That was the answer which they thundered out in trumpet tones to the miserable traitors who had so long torn the bleeding heart of their country.

"'I always knew,' said one old man at our elbow, in the crowd, whilst we were watching the procession, 'that the heart of the people was all right. They didn't know their danger for a long while. Now they've found it out—and this is what they say about it!'

"This procession was remarkable in many respects as a pageant, and particularly in the number of fine horses which accompanied it. A larger number of well-mounted men has rarely been seen in a civic procession. The police came at the head of it, under the command of Captain Nelson; a fine body of men, with capital horses, looking as bold and brave as heroes.

"After these followed, in stately march, the Michigan Sharpshooters; the 1st Regiment of Illinois State Militia, (Chicago City Guard,) a fine lot of fellows! and the whole of the First Division, with their bands, and flags, and panoply of war.

"Amongst these, the carriage containing the captured rebel flags attracted much attention, and excited great enthusiasm. These were the flaunting rags which the rebels had borne on many a battle-field, and which our brave Illinois soldiers had torn from the hands of their standard-bearers. There they were, *bellorum exuviæ*, spoils of war, flaunting no longer in haughty defiance at the head of rebel armies, but carried in triumph at the head of a civic procession in the peaceful streets of Chicago. Many a tearful memory they must have conjured up in the minds of many a spectator there present, whose sons were in the battles where these flags were taken; and many of whom are, ere now, at rest forever in their bloody soil.

"The Second and Third Divisions followed; and it was a most picturesque and pleasing sight to behold the long lines of members of the various Lodges, societies, and associations of the city, in their many-colored regalias. Then came the benevolent societies, the religious orders making an imposing spectacle, which it would require the painter's art to represent, and to which no words could do anything like justice.

"The Fifth Division, ushered by a fine band, and headed by J. Q. Hoyt, Esq., then came trampling by. There were scores of carriages, containing members of the press, the clergy, the municipal authorities, judges and officers of the courts, governors and ex-governors of States, &c., &c.

"One of the most strikingly beautiful features of the procession was a superbly decorated four-horse car, bearing the employés of the liberal-hearted Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company, represented in this city by Geo. R. Chittenden, Esq., and suggestive, by the presence of working women and sewing machines at work upon soldiers' overcoats, of the utility of the sewing machine in clothing armies.

"Then the Sixth Division, consisting of wagons choked with children, singing the

song of 'John Brown's Body Lies Mouldering in the Grave!'

"Then the Seventh Division of butchers, horse-shoers—of ponies and oxen, contributed; and last, but not least—nay, greatest and mightiest of all—the sublime spectacle of the Lake County Delegation.

"THE LAKE COUNTY DELEGATION.

"A striking and noticeable feature of the procession was the long string of farmers' teams from Lake County. They came into the city at an early hour in the forenoon, and sufficiently early to join the procession. There were one hundred wagons, loaded to overflowing with vegetables, the staid old horses decorated with little flags, and larger flags pendent from the wagons and held by the stout farmer hands. It was a great and beautiful free-will offering of the sturdy farmers, whose hearts ever beat true to freedom and the Union. No part of the procession attracted so many eyes, and no heartier cheers went up from the thousands who thronged the streets than those given, and thrice repeated, for the Lake County farmers and their splendid donation. There were no small loads. Every wagon was filled to overflowing with great heaps of potatoes and silver-skinned onions, mammoth squashes, huge beets and turnips, monster cabbages, barrels of cider and rosy apples, load after load, with many a gray-haired farmer driving, face weather-beaten, frame rugged, hands bronzed, his old eyes sparkling with the excitement of the project his big heart conceived. And back of the farmer, mounted on the vegetables, were the boys, filled to repletion with fun. At the end of the route of the procession, the teams drove up to the Sanitary Commission rooms, and unloaded their precious freights of stores into the garners, whence they will go to the boys in the field.

"This harvest home was a sight to bring tears to the eyes of any man but a confirmed copperhead. There was an eloquence in it, a moral grandeur which spoke louder than any words. It told that the farmers, the bone and sinew of the country, were yet confident of success, that despair or distrust has not entered into their calculations, and that the boys in the field were worthy the best of their crops. There was no display, no advertisement lurking behind their contribution. It was a free-will offering from their great, generous hearts, for which they will have no recompense, save that best of all recompense, the blessings of the gallant fellows in camp and in hospital. God bless the Lake County farmers!

"The procession arrived at the Court-House about one o'clock, when the bands struck up some patriotic tunes; after which Thomas B. Bryan, Esq., addressed the people. * * * * *

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"AT THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

"The scene presented at the Sanitary Commission rooms was worth going a great distance to witness, and thousands improved the rare opportunity. Here more than 100 wagons were drawn up before the Commission, delivering their treasures to the agents who are to forward them to the boys in the field. The sidewalks and street were filled with boxes, barrels and sacks, and scores and hundreds of by-standers eagerly put their shoulders to the work, and were proud to take part in handling some of this soldiers' produce. Madison Street, for nearly a block, was blockaded for fully half an hour. Judge Fuller came to see what was the matter—why the Madison Street cars were so long delayed; but when he saw the cause, and the effect upon the people, he concluded passengers could well afford to walk around the 'blockade.' This grand donation was worth about $3,000—an immense amount of farm products of every variety—better than gold for the Sanitary Commission, and through them, for the boys in the field and in hospitals."

"The back room of the 'Commission' was filled with wheat; Mr. McVicker tendered them the use of his cellar, which was soon filled; next, B. W. Raymond offered storage room in one of his large cellars, which was gladly accepted, and promptly used. We regret that some photographist was not on hand to take a view of that crowd, and present duplicates of the Fair. They would have sold by thousands."

"While unloading their golden treasure, a messenger approached the farmers with an invitation from the Lady Managers to come to Lower Bryan Hall, and partake of a dinner in waiting for them. These sturdy, warm-hearted yeomen, accompanied by the Marshals of the several divisions, moved to Bryan Hall, where they were warmly welcomed by the ladies and all who were present."

It is impossible to describe in detail the various halls occupied by the Fair. No one hall was large enough. Bryan Hall, beautifully decorated, was filled with articles such as usually crowd the tables of fairs—only here the tables were burdened; and each morning after the sales of the previous day, the abundance was renewed.

This hall was brilliantly lighted in the evening, and crowded from nine in the morning until eleven at night.

Among the articles in Bryan Hall which attracted attention, was the original manuscript of President Lincoln's "Proclamation of Emancipation;" a gift of the Presi-

dent to the Fair. Some thousands of dollars will probably be realized from its sale.

In the large hall below, in the same building, were neatly arranged but richly loaded tables—each table seating some forty persons; and here, every day, some 1,500 or 2,000 persons dined. A matron presided over each table, and the young ladies of the city, tastefully attired, were the "waiters" of the tables. It was a sight not to be forgotten. All these supplies were "sent in" from the homes of the city and vicinity. This was continued with unfailing abundance during the two weeks that the Fair continued.

A third hall was the Supervisors' Hall—where the judge not only adjourned his court and gave up his room to the Fair, but gave himself to superintend that department. The following notice of this all is from the *Chicago Tribune*, as before:

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

That which will probably prove one of the most attractive features of the Fair is what we shall call the "Curiosity Shop," which is located in the Supervisor's room, in the Court-House. We need not describe it in detail, but will say that about everything ever seen, or read of in modern books or newspapers, can be found there. First, there are the battle-torn flags of the 1st, 2d, 6th, and 10th Wisconsin Regiments. On the first is inscribed, "Chaplain Hills;" on the second, "Fourteen Battles;" on the 6th, "Five Battles;" and on the 10th, "Chaplain Hills." Then there are the battered and torn flags of our own glorious Illinois 19th. On one is inscribed the undying words, "Who'll save the left?" and on the other—"Stone River." Side by side with these, are the blood-soiled banners from Stone River, Arkansas Post, Hatchie, Shiloh, &c. Here are also flags captured from rebels in scores. One from the famous "Mississippi Devils," bearing the motto, "Our rights;" a Virginia flag captured at Gettysburg, on its folds "Dulce et decorum patria mori;" a Virginia State flag, the Rock Rifleman's flag; the flag of the Summit (Miss.) Rifles—"We fight for our rights—presented by the ladies of Summit." Another flag is suggestive of Floyd. It bears the motto, "We collect our own revenue," and it might have been added, others too. There are large numbers of others of this description of trophies of the valor of our armies, which are worth a long voyage to see. Then there are sewing machines, photographs, rebel butcher knives, horse pistols, books, fancy chairs, paintings, minerals, vases, side saddles, bird-cages, flower-pots, scimetars, guns, flower vases, trophies by the hundred, &c., &c., almost every one of which has a history which will interest the purchaser.

A fourth hall was devoted to the exhibition of works of art. Here were collected, and admirably and tastefully arranged, some 400 or 500 oil paintings, many of them works of great merit; carried into the Western world from Eastern, or even transatlantic homes. Some days before the close of the Fair it was stated that twenty thousand persons had visited this gallery of paintings. Here, as in the other halls, was music, added to the presence of ladies. A fifth hall was the new building where the machinery was exhibited, before referred to.

Besides the sales in the various halls there was, from time to time, an auction sale in the street, of hay and grain, and horses, and colts, and cows, and such other gifts as were not fitly placed upon tables.

Thus the Fair was continued until Saturday of the second week, Nov. 7th, the tide of supplies and of people from the Northwest daily flowing in. As a necessary guard against an utterly overbearing crowd, different days were assigned to different sections of the country, when they were notified that it was most desirable for them to come.

Each evening there was some entertainment, which "paid," in Metropolitan Hall, (No. 6 in order.) One evening ladies and gentlemen came down from Detroit, bringing all appliances with them, and presented a most charming set of tableaux. Another evening there were Shakespeare readings; another evening, Miss Anna Dickinson claimed and chained a thronged house, and so on.

Not from the "Northwest" only did friends and gifts appear. But there were persons and greetings from every loyal State and a glad quickening of patriotic sympathy in a work which embraces in its ministry of mercy a nation's army fighting in a nation's cause.

Not content with all of this work at the Fair, the ladies, as a fitting and beautiful close to their two weeks of toil, gave in the lower hall a bountiful dinner to all the in-

valid soldiers in that vicinity who were able to leave tent or hospital and gather there. It was a glad occasion, blessing and blessed.

Enough is said of the marvelous energy and wise business talent displayed by the ladies who had the Fair in hand, when it is stated that from beginning to end, for two weeks, there was perfect system, and no break, no jars in the machinery.

Altogether, this Fair, independent of the money realized from it for sick and wounded soldiers, has in its moral effect performed a grand work. States are connected closer, while the lines between them as States are less sharply drawn, and loyalty to the great idea of "nationality" has to-day a deeper holdupon the whole North-west, and upon the nation itself, than it had one month ago.

THE PRISONERS ON BOTH SIDES.

Whatever the merits of the controversy between the two Commissioners of Exchange may be, they have not the smallest bearing upon the treatment of the prisoners on either side. The claims of the latter to food and shelter are in no way affected by the circumstances, let them be what they may, which have for the present put a stop to their exchange. Even if our Government were ever so much in the wrong, either in its construction of the *cartel*, or in its computation of numbers, the idea of coercing it into the concession of the rebel claims by penalties inflicted on the Union prisoners, would be as novel, and as unprecedented, as it is inhuman. By the strict rule of war, neither party has the right to have its prisoners exchanged. Soldiers captured by an enemy may lawfully be held in durance until the war is over. The custom of exchanging them owes its origin to the desire which happily usually prevails in civilized countries, to mitigate the rigors of a strict assertion of right, whenever it can be done without injury to either of the combatants. But if either of them could believe or show that an exchange would serve his enemy more than it would serve him, or that the refusal to exchange would damage his enemy more than it would damage him, there is no reason in the laws of war why he should not hold his prisoners until the peace. In fact, prisoners, for whom the other side can offer no equivalent, are held, even when there is a *cartel*, and nobody would ever think of accusing their captors of cruelty in doing it. Exchange is, in short, a mere concession made for the sake of sparing brave men the burden of a long imprisonment in a hostile country; and if a belligerent refuses for any cause to make it, nobody has a right to complain except its own prisoners, and least of all the enemy. It follows, therefore, that the treatment to which our unfortunate soldiers are subjected at Richmond has not even the poor excuse of having been resorted to for the enforcement of a well-founded claim. It is, in every sense of the word, wanton and unjustifiable, and the violence of Mr. Ould's language, in his correspondence with General Meredith, naturally leads us to suspect that he knows it to be so. Vituperation is rarely used by men as used to discussion as he is, except in defence of things which are not otherwise defensible.

What renders the conduct of the Richmond authorities all the more heinous is, that their treatment of our prisoners stands in marked contrast to that which they have experienced at our hands, and scarcity of either provisions or clothing at the South puts no new face on the matter, inasmuch as the Government at Washington, and the people of the North through the Sanitary Commission, would from the outset have, on the slightest hint of such a state of things, have been only too glad to take the task of supporting our men off their hands.

We sent an agent to the hospital at Annapolis, Maryland, to examine the condition of the fresh batch who came from Richmond by the flag of truce on the 29th Oct. He says in his Report:

Of the 185 who escaped with their lives from the prisons of the rebel capital, eight died on the passage from City Point; several, almost immediately after landing, expired of inanition. Of 134 sent to the 1st Division Hospital, 43 had died up to Sunday last; and many more, exhibiting frightful signs of starvation, though still alive, are destined not to survive.

On their arrival at the landing, many were in a dying condition; and were *alive* with vermin, filthy, and almost entirely

destitute of clothing. Some had only shreds of a single shirt remaining, others the remains only of an old blanket around the body; such, in fact, was their condition in this respect, that the Surgeon in charge of the Hospital who was receiving them, had to send his wife and a female nurse away from the landing for decency' sake,—so nearly nude were these half-famished men; and so like living, skeletons, that among them "a mother would not have not known her son."

Most of them were footsore; 120 were without shoes; and so reduced, many of them, as to be beyond the reach of food or stimulants to restore them.

On visiting them in the Hospital wards, I found many who were too feeble to relate their experience; from others I gathered that they are all unclothed, unsheltered and unfed. Knapsacks are always taken from prisoners, and their contents stolen. The sick only are sometimes allowed to retain a blanket; other clothing, and boots and shoes, almost always are taken. Upon Belle Island there is no shelter for the thousands there, most of whom are sick and half naked, lying upon the ground; sand is incrusted into the sore backs of some; and the unanimous testimony of all with whom I talked about the food was, that it was a "famine ration;" that men "starved upon it."

The rations, meagre as they are, are not served regularly,—but, their distribution is dependent upon the mismanagement and caprice of officers *who sell them*—thus sacrificing the very lives of their helpless prisoners for paltry gain. "I have known," said one officer, an intelligent Englishman, "I have known the Quartermaster *to sell all the bread he could find sale for* and send the rest to the prisoners."

Some describe their imprisonment as "a long struggle with hunger;" and say, that all who arrive "looking well and robust, soon show signs of physical weakness and exhaustion." In answer to questions as to clothing and shelter upon Belle Island, one man said, "the men mostly sleep in the sun in the daytime, and walk about all night, to keep warm." Among an accumulation of testimony, sufficient to fill a volume, I select the following, as bearing upon the treatment and rations given, and the general condition and *prospects* of our prisoners in Richmond.

George A. Rogers, 1st Vt. Cavalry, (late Captain of Cavalry in the British Army,) was wounded, and taken prisoner at Brandy Station, Va., Oct. 11th. "Soon as I was captured," he said, "I was sent to the rear, where my wounds, (one a severe sabre wound of the scalp,) which bled furiously, were dressed. My boots were taken away, and I was sent to Richmond to the Hospital, which I reached on the 14th." He remained there 17 days. "Prisoners," he says, "are *always* robbed of their shoes, boots and clothing, often all except the cap and jacket, which they never steal, *for fear they would be mistaken for Yankees and barbarously treated.*" "The ration in Hospital is 1½ ounces of meat, ½ pint of their bean soup, and 3 slices of bread daily." "A few fone bandages were distributed among the badly wounded, but no lint, and no medicines." In answer to my inquiries whether food and clothing sent from the North to prisoners reached them, he said, "Supplies sent directly to individuals, to men and officers, are given to them, *but clothing is not.*" He had "seen rebel officers wearing clothing with the U. S. Sanitary Commission's mark upon them, and heard men boast of having stolen them." This was corroborated by another man, a prisoner from Richmond, who heard his statement. "I have seen," he added, "half-starved fellows from Belle Island search about for crumbs on the floor on reaching the Hospital, and devour their first scanty meal like hungry dogs; so nearly starved are they when sent to Hospital, that none of them live more than two days. They all die." He described the destitution of soldiers in Richmond (rebel soldiers) as recently very great; "at one time they were on ¼ rations." "I saw some of our poor fellows utterly crazy from want and ill-treatment." Others had forgotten their names, and the number and name of their regiment." "The antipathy the rebels in Richmond feel for us is such as men feel for not dogs even, unless they are *mad.*" "When entering Richmond, our fellows were half dead with hunger and fatigue, and one of the rebel chivalry stuck a piece

of pork upon his bayonet, and shouted "Come on, you dogs—follow me!"

"On coming away, 185 of us were packed like herrings in a long, narrow barge, without clothes and without shelter, and so filthy that I overheard one of their officers say, "Don't let our poor fellows go on that boat." Both Capt. Rogers and others confirm the statement that *the rule is* to search all who arrive, and take money and other valuables; and books, even rings, are taken from the fingers. The Hospital ration is larger than it is on the Island, and at the Libby Prison, 3 slices of bread being given to the sick. The quantity furnished to officers is also larger than is given to privates."

Harrison Merchant, Private, Co. A, 16th Regiment, Maine Vols., taken prisoner at Gettysburg and sent to Belle Island, says, "They had some old tents there, but now nothing in the way of shelter is left but some old strips of canvas." The daily ration, he says, "was 10 lbs. of beef and bones for 100 men. It was sometimes bad; but we never minded that. One loaf of bread—often it was sour, and had lime in it—was divided in 6 slices; two slices and about ¼ pint of boiled dirty water with a teaspoonful of beans in it, was all we got; but sometimes we didn't get that. The loaf weighed about a pound. The guard got a whole loaf a day. We sometimes got 3 or 4 spoonsful of rice, but it was not boiled enough."

"The soup was made by adding 1½ pails full of soup in which the meat and beans were boiled to 20 pails full of hot James River water;" surely a rare work of art, to show how thin a Yankee soldier could grow and not die! One man said, "the *soup*, as they called it, was so thin, that except for the dirt in it, it would not stain a white handkerchief."

Oscar Eckell, Private, 24th Mich. Vols., was captured at Gettysburg, July 1st. On the 27th arrived at Richmond, and was sent to Belle Island with 500 other prisoners. "We all remained without any shelter, lying on the bare ground; my blanket, rubber blanket, and everything in my knapsack, was taken away. The meat that was served to us was often spoiled. There was such suffering for want of clothes, that the men scrambled for the rags that came off the dead; sometimes the corpses were robbed of all they had on; I saw a good many men on the island that were *insane.* The food we got wasn't enough to keep a baby alive."

William Read, Corporal, Co. K, 162d Regiment, N. Y. Vols., was taken prisoner at Springfield, near Port Hudson, July 2d. "We made long marches, all barefoot; many died on the marches from sun-stroke and exhaustion, for we had no food for 3 days." He reached Belle Island on the 6th August, and describes the vermin as "so great a curse, that the men tear off their only remaining rags, cry like children and go about naked," so intolerable is their suffering from this cause; *the whole earth moves with them.* Men could get paroled, first by paying $5 or $10; one squad of our men raised $280, and a valuable gold watch, which they gave to the rebel officers for a first chance to get away. The Island is very sickly, and is becoming a great grave-yard. We never got as much as two ounces of meat at a time; sometimes we got about a table-spoonful of beans, or rice."

Martin Pennock, Corporal, Co. G, 4th Michigan, says: "The dead are all buried by our own men, most of them without boxes. Sometimes 6 or 8 are sent down, never enough for all the dead. The men are fairly worn out with the labor of burying the dead. *There is no register of deaths kept.* The sick, even those that have been paroled a second time, cannot get away, because they are too weak to walk. To find out whether men have money, that they may steal it, they allow peddlers to come about and go into the prisons and bring food and tobacco for sale, and a spy comes with them."

J. W. Tailor, who was both in the Libby Prison and in the Alabama Hospital, says: "There were sinks in the prison, but most of the men were too ill and weak to crawl to them." The ration, acccording to Tailor, is 1 ounce; or, as he added, "only one mouthful," about ¼ lb. of bread, in the morning; at night, ½ pint of soup; at the prison, clothing, blankets and clothes are often taken from our men. One witness said to me, "Even tin cups were stolen from us, and then sold back to the owner for one dollar." Tailor was in a room in the Hos-

pital "with 284 others; all wounded, and many with fevers; all in one room, without beds or blankets, or straw even to lie upon."

"Our ration was bread, and *a pint cup-full* of rye, coffee, or the same quantity of soup made of rice and turnip leaves—*for twelve men.* The beans we got were always musty. In one room in the hospital were 81 patients with diarrhœa; 40 of them died. Sometimes officers who were kept in a room above us bought food—potatoes and bread—and passed it down through holes where chains for hauling up tobacco passed. They often poured soup down to the hungry fellows, but they had to knock on the floor, and when the guard found us out we were deprived of our rations."

James Harrison, quartermaster's clerk, has scurvy; was sent to hospital, and remained there 6 weeks; was in charge of a rebel doctor. "They had no lint nor bandages, except some dirty strips like tent cloth. There were 300 cases, the doctor told me, of scurvy much worse than mine. For a few days they gave us raw potatoes—a few slices—and a little vinegar, and some tincture of iron, but they soon gave out. We then had only about a quarter of a pint of rice soup, with turnip-tops boiled in it, and a slice of bread and a little rye coffee once daily; that was all we got." He had no money when taken, but "5 others captured at the same time had $100 robbed from them. One man had a $20 greenback *exchanged* by an officer for $20 in Confed. money; that was taken charge of when we got in Richmond." Before going to hospital he was in Libby prison, and says: "While I was there, the room I was in was washed out every day, so the floor was always wet and muddy. It was our only bed. Some of the sick kept their blankets."

One of the prisoners described the floors of the prison as being "sometimes ankle deep in filth." Several with whom I talked describe the hospital ration as barely sufficient for well men "to keep alive upon; the sick were all too bad and weak to be benefited much by it." "At one time we were a week without salt, and then used to get only a little pinch of it." "Nearly 900 of us were crowded in a room 80 feet by 40." "The water of the James River, which was made into *soup*, when it was taken for the use of our men on the island, was black from the filth of sewers which empty into it. The bread is often sour, and the meat that we get, without salt, is disgustingly fresh. The rebel officers, when they can get salt for us, *sell it.* Our rice is always given to us half boiled. The quartermaster, after the bread is baked, sells all he can get pay for, and gives us our ration out of what is left. Our rations were purposely served after dark, and our meat—a mouthful apiece for 16 men—was thrown upon the floor in all the filth, where we had to divide it. The authorities and officers in Richmond treated us worse than a Christian would treat a mangy dog."

From the accounts recently published, there can be no doubt that there is great scarcity of food in Richmond. But *our* prisoners had only 10 lbs. of meat for 100 men; *their guards* had 25 lbs. *Our* men had their scanty ration served twice a day; *theirs* three times. For *ours*, a loaf is divided into six slices, and in some instances (when the rest is sold) only one slice is given daily; at the same time *their men* had a loaf apiece, and a quantity of rice besides. No one could see the men in the hospitals at Annapolis and doubt they were perishing from inanition. *I spanned the thigh of a man just dead with my thumb and middle finger.* And the longing eyes with which those that reached the hospital watched the food, the eagerness with which they devoured it, all told of starvation.

The Commission has caused a report to be made upon the condition and treatment of the rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland, one of the principal depots, and it is worthy of attention, if only for the sake of the contrast. Of the hospital the report says:

The hospital was situated in the southern part of the encampment, and was composed of eighteen hospital tents complete, arranged two together end to end, and placed in two rows, a broad street intervening with the cook and dining tent, on the eastern end, and facing the street. In these tents there were one hundred patients, and all, with the exception of five or six, were on raised bunks, and all were lying on mattresses, with at least one blanket for

covering. Eight of their own men were detailed to take care of them; and although they were enlisted men, yet six were graduates of some medical school, and the other two had been students. Four were graduates of the University of the City of New York; one of the School at New Orleans; one from the Eclectic School, Cincinnati; and the other two were students in the University of Pennsylvania — 'seceders;' still little or no attention did they give to their sick comrades, and, except in giving the necessary food and medicine, they scarcely ever visited them. There is either a lack of sympathy, or else indolence enters largely into their composition; and I am inclined to believe it is the latter, for, with the accommodations at their command, with good beds and shelter for the sick, if they had one particle of pride they could render them much more comfortable, especially as regards cleanliness.

Chronic diarrhœa is the most prevalent disease, yet they have mild cases of remittant fever and some erysipelas.

Mortality, none; for when any cases assume a dangerous character they are immediately removed to the General Hospital, and they generally remove from twenty to thirty per day on an average, leaving in Camp Hospital eighty sick."

The rations are very good, both in quantity and quality amply sufficient for any sick man; but there are exceptional cases where they need something more delicate than the regular army ration. The majority are perfectly well satisfied, and very little complaint is made in this particular. I will here give the quantities they receive in full, half, and low diet:

FULL DIET.	HALF DIET.	LOW DIET.
Dinner.	*Dinner.*	*Dinner.*
Beef or pork, 4 oz.	Meat, 2 oz.	No meat.
Potatoes, 4 oz.	Potatoes, 3 oz.	Potatoes, 2 oz.
Hard-tack, 3 oz.	Hard-tack, 2 oz.	Hard-tack, 1 oz.
Breakfast and tea.	*Breakfast and tea.*	*Breakfast and tea.*
Coffee or tea, 1 pt.	Coffee or tea, 1 pt.	Coffee or tea, 1 pt.
Rice, 2 gills.	Rice, 1 gill.	Rice, 1 gill.
Molasses, 1 oz.	Molasses, ½ oz.	Molasses, ½ oz.
Hard-tack, 3 oz.	Hard-tack, 2 oz.	Hard-tack, 1 oz.

Soup and soft bread is also given them at least once a week.

Of their shelter there can be no possible complaint, for they all have good tents, such as wall, hospital, Sibley, wedge, shelter, hospital, and wall tent-flies. The majority are in the wedge tent. Average in a hospital tent, from fifteen to eighteen men; in wall tent, from ten to twelve; in shelter tent, three; in Sibley tent, from thirteen to fourteen; in wedge tent, five; under hospital-fly, from ten to thirteen; under wall tent-fly, from three to eight. Of the shelter tents, only a very few are excavated and boarded at the sides, and almost every tent throughout the camp has a fire-place and chimney, built of brick, made by them from the soil (which is clay) and sun-baked. In a few of the Sibleys holes are dug, fire built, and covered at the top; generally the tents are filled with smoke.

The ration to the well men is:

Pork, 3 oz.
Salt or Beef, 4 oz.
Hard-tack, 10 oz.
Coffee, 1 pt.
} A day's ration.

Soup is also given once a week, potatoes and beans every five days, soft bread once a week; and fresh meat had been issued to them once a week, up to two weeks ago, when, from some cause I could not find out, it was stopped.

The kitchen and dining-rooms are in the northwest corner of the camp, and composed of six wooden buildings one hundred and sixty feet in length, with twenty feet off for the kitchen. Only five of the buildings are in use. The kitchen arrangements are very good, each one containing four caldrons, and in one five, each caldron capable of containing from fifty to sixty gallons. Breakfast and supper they relied upon hard-tack, tea or coffee, and there is no likelihood of their starving. The dining-room contains three tables, and each house feeds fifteen hundred and twenty-nine men, five hundred at a time. Seem to be well supplied with all necessary articles both for kitchen and dining-room.

I will make allowance for the condition of the kitchen, as they were just through serving dinner, and were making preparations for cleaning up; yet there was evidence of a want of care and cleanliness; still I found them in much better condition than I expected; there was such a vast difference that I did not notice as much the number of bones thrown from kitchen on the outside; still there were some.

The sick in quarters average from one hundred and sixty to two hundred, prevailing disease scurvy, yet a great many are troubled with diarrhœa, and as they gradually grow worse, are admitted to the hospital to be sent to the General Hospital. Those men who are sick in quarters, and who are unable to eat the rations given them, have instead, vinegar 3 oz., potatoes 5, rice 1 gill, molasses 1 gill—one day's ration; each man cooks for himself. They are troubled greatly with the itch, and it is spreading throughout the camp; and until sulphur was sent them by the Commission, they had nothing for it.

They have abundance of water in the camp, notwithstanding that several of the wells are unfit for use. The waters of those not in use are strongly impregnated with iron, and will stain white clothing a yellow or light brown. Outside of these there is an abundance of good water, and no excuse whatever for being otherwise than cleanly; but they seem to abhor soap and water; at least their appearance so indicates. A great many are employing their time in making brick, and have now a great quantity on hand. Others employ themselves in making rings, chains, seals, &c., from bone and gutta percha—and notwithstanding the complaint that they do not get enough to eat, you'll find them on the main street, which they call the "'Change," gambling both for money and rations. They have games at cards, reno, sweat-cloth, &c.; also, on this street they do their trading, hard-tack for tobacco, and tobacco for hard-tack. It is here that you will find them in crowds, sitting or kneeling in the dirt, eagerly watching the different games, and see them arise dissatisfied at having lost their day's ration. While thus engaged they are unmindful of the cold.

In the afternoon visited the Small-Pox Hospital, which is about a quarter of a mile north of the encampment, among the pine bushes, under the charge of Dr. A. Broadbent, Acting Asst. Surgeon. This hospital was opened two weeks ago, and up to to-day have received therein one hundred and thirty-three patients, during which time thirty-three deaths have occurred. The sick are in wedge tents, three to a tent, lying on straw on the ground, with a blanket and a half to a man. Their ration is the same, and bean soup is also given every day; to those not allowed it, coffee in its stead. The men are much more comfortable here than in the encampment, and those who are in attendance do not want to go back. I should also state that they occasionally get soft bread. No complaints at all; were getting along as well as they could expect.

THE SUPPLIES FOR THE RICHMOND PRISONERS.

The following letters explain themselves:

FORT MONROE, *Nov. 20th*, 1863.

DR. J. H. DOUGLAS,

Associate Sec'y San. Com.:

MY DEAR SIR—As I said in my last telegram, we were unable to send up all our stores from City Point, for want of sufficient transportation. As the Rebel boat could not return from Richmond until Saturday, the Colonel commanding the Union flag of truce boat deemed it advisable to return to Fort Monroe for another load; Capt. Hatch, of the rebel boat, having promised to bring down another lighter, which would enable him to take up all the freight our boat could carry. The convoy, the same boat that I went up on, will return to City Point to-morrow, and will take up all our stores on hand at Fort Monroe. The hospital supplies, such as beef-soup, chocolate, condensed milk, brandy, &c., I consigned to Dr. Wilkin, Surgeon-in-Chief of the hospital for prisoners, he having assured Colonel Irvine—late of Libby Prison, and now commanding flag of truce boat Convoy—that everything sent in that way should be devoted to the exclusive use of our sick and wounded soldiers; and Capt. Hatch, of the rebel boat, gave me the fullest assurance that the stores would be safely delivered to Dr. Wilkin.

In future, stores sent to the prisoners in Richmond should be divided into two classes—substantial food for the well men, and delicacies for the sick. The first should be marked "Libby Prison," or "Belle Island"—the second, "Hospital for Prisoners," Richmond, Va. The Sanitary Commission Stamp should be marked on each package, and the packages themselves

should be very substantially put together, as they are very apt to get broken with the many handlings which they undergo before reaching their destination.

Triplicate invoices should be sent with each lot of stores—two to General Meredith and one to me. Give the contents of each package and the number of packages sent. As the New York does not go up to-morrow, I shall not go up again for several days, or until we send another lot of stores. My principal object in wishing to go up on the New York was to ascertain all about her accommodations for making the returning prisoners comfortable. I believe they are quite ample, but I want to see for myself. Very truly yours,

JAMES GALL, JR.

MR. F. M. KNAPP,
Associate Sec'y San. Com.:

MY DEAR SIR—The flag of truce New York goes up to City Point this A. M., taking with her all the sanitary stores intended for Richmond, that have accumulated here during the week ———. General Meredith says he will send the flag of truce boat any time with a load of Sanitary supplies, and as the New York will be ready to go up again Tuesday, I would like to be able to send a large supply of substantial food—crackers, beef, potatoes, onions, &c., and of under-clothing, such as drawers, shirts, stockings, towels, handkerchiefs, &c. A supply of soap also is much needed, and would, I have no doubt, be gratefully received.

General Meredith says that for the present the Government will not send any more stores to the prisoners, as the proper disposition of those already sent is very much doubted.

The General says, however, that he has every reason to believe that the supplies sent by the Commission have been properly distributed. I will make every effort to gain information on this point. In the mean time, the Commission, with evidence before it that some of the goods sent have been received, should send forward large supplies of all kinds of substantial food and comfortable under-clothing, blankets, &c.

Very truly yours,

JAMES GALL, JR.

LIBBY PRISON, RICHMOND, VA.,
November 12, 1863.

To the Agent of the Sanitary Commission,
Norfolk, Va.:

I have written you more than once through the *regular channel*, but fear the letters may not go. A private opportunity offers now. The goods received from you were of the utmost service to the officers here, a great many of whom were in very sad condition.

We need about 200 more shirts, same number of drawers, and as many blankets, unless we are to be exchanged soon; also some socks. *We have only corn bread (unsifted), a little rice, and a few poor sweet potatoes and water for our rations.* The bread is about half a pound; the rice half a gill. I had to-day eight potatoes; only two were good for anything—medium size—the others not larger than one's finger ! !

We are annoyed and indignant that while we are treated in this manner the Confed. officers in our hands are furnished with abundant rations, excellent in quality and variety, with good quarters, beds and blankets; while we are turned into this building, to sleep on the floor without blankets. Only one room here has glass; all the other windows are open to the full sweep of the north wind. No fires.

If perfectly convenient, I should like from the Commission a small box of preserved meats, fruits, &c., &c.

NEAL DOW,
Brig. Gen., U. S. A.

The *Richmond Examiner* publishes the following in explanation of the alleged refusal of the Confederate authorities to permit Colonel Irvine, in charge of Government supplies for the Union prisoners, to proceed with them to Richmond :

General Meredith, on the 12th, inclosed to our Commissioner the following letter, addressed to "Captain Edward A. Fobes, Libby Prison:"

"FORT MONROE, *November* 12, 1863.
"Captain Edward A. Fobes, Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia:

"SIR—I send by flag truce, this day, twenty-four thousand rations, the distribution of which I authorize you to superintend. You will please forward me receipts for the same. Should the Confederate authorities allow this course to be pursued in subsisting our prisoners, I will consider

your receipts as evidence of the fact, and will keep up the supply.

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

[Signed] S. A. MEREDITH,

"Brigadier-General and Agent of Exchange."

Judge Ould promptly returned it with the following endorsement:

"Respectfully returned to Brigadier-General Meredith. This letter will not be delivered to Captain Fobes. I have to-day, in a letter, informed you that the rations, including candles, will be served to your soldiers. The manner in which that is to be done will be governed by our regulations, not yours. If you are not satisfied with those regulations, you can take back your rations and withhold any in the future. [Signed] RO. OULD,

"Agent of Exchange."

Another letter, written by our Commissioner on the 15th, assured General Meredith that whilst our authorities would not allow directions to issue from Fortress Monroe to a Federal prisoner in Richmond to attend to the distribution of rations, yet the provisions would be distributed in conformity with such regulations as would be established by the prison authorities.

The fact of the case is, that the identical provisions carried back to Fortress Monroe by Lieutenant-Colonel Irvine were immediately dispatched by the same hands to City Point, to be received upon the terms proposed by our Commissioner, and at the very time of the appearance of the *Herald's* editorial were helping to fill the greedy stomachs of the Yankee prisoners.

REPORT ON THE SANITARY STATE OF THE TROOPS AT CHARLESTON.

Gen. Gillmore landed on Folly Island early in July, his army being composed mainly of the troops now on Morris Island. On the 10th of July he crossed over to Morris Island with a portion of his command. On or previous to the 18th July, the day of the unsuccessful assault upon "Wagner," — of the — regiments now on the Island had come over from Folly. The remaining — regiments landed subsequently, after the evacuation by the enemy of "Wagner" and "Gregg."

The labors and duties in connection with the siege have thus fallen not entirely equally upon the regiments now on Morris Island.

Of the —— regiments, —— have entered the department since January 31st, 1863. Most of these came from North Carolina.

The — regiments on Folly Island reached the department between the 1st and 17th August last, all from Virginia, excepting the two colored regiments, the 1st North Carolina and the 55th Massachusetts.

These troops have been subject to duties less severe and exhausting than those which have constantly been required of the command on Morris Island. I endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to obtain an official statement of the amount and character of the duties imposed upon the troops on Morris Island. The effect of these duties upon the physical and moral condition of the troops has been great, and I regret exceedingly the necessity of confining myself to merely general statements.

An important circumstance in the history of this command is, that it arrived before Charleston at the most unhealthy, sickly season of the year, after a summer spent in Virginia, and after the health of the troops had begun to suffer from unsuitable rations and the hardships of field service.

The sanitary condition of these troops immediately before they came to South Carolina was bad.

MORRIS ISLAND.—Morris Island, or that part of it which is not covered by tide-water, is a ridge or rainbow of sand some four miles in length, with an average breadth of perhaps one-fourth of a mile.

It presents to the sea a broad, firm beach, varies in altitude from a few feet to nearly or quite sixty feet, and has a westward slope more or less rapid towards the marsh, which embraces by far the larger portion of the Island, spreading out for miles towards the west and north, and intersected by innumerable creeks, and covered with a dense growth of coarse sea-grass.

The few straggling and scraggy palmettoes which once grew just above the western limit of tide-water have been cut away, while elsewhere there is little or no vegetation of any kind.

FOLLY ISLAND.—Folly Island, in its general formation, is similar to Morris. The bluff, however, is lower, having been washed

away by the unceasing encroachments of the sea. The beach is narrower, so narrow as to be unavailable for camp sites, while the western slope of the bluff either is, or has recently been, covered more or less densely with pines, palmettoes, myrtles and other indigenous trees.

Malaria.—Morris Island I believe to be quite free from malaria. The absence of vegetation, the sandy character of that part of the island occupied by our troops, the free exposure of the whole island surface to the sun, and the almost unfailing breezes from the sea, are conditions which must at least modify its developments.

Folly I cannot regard with the same favor. The part of the island above tide-water rolls in ridges towards the marsh on its western border, sinks to lower levels, and is more frequently swampy. The sand, over a consideable part of the island, is buried beneath a stratum of rich vegetable mould.

The ridges are covered with pines, and the slopes and ravines filled with palmettoes and a luxuriant semi-tropical vegetation.

Water.—The water on Morris Island is slightly brackish and insipid, although I know of no reason to believe it positively unhealthful.

The water on Folly Island is quite similar, and in many places is unpleasantly impregnated with organic vegetable matter.

I cannot think that the recent interments on Morris Island can much affect the health of the troops ; if so, it is not by poisoning the water, as has been occasionally reported. The burial-grounds, hemmed in by sand-hills, are more than a quarter of a mile from the nearest camps, while the dead buried elsewhere within the limits of our encampment are probably few in number. I believe the water to be at present pretty much in its natural state. How long it may remain so depends much upon the cleanly habits of the troops and the attention given to camp policing. The water is generally but a few feet below the surface, and the slops, refuse, and filth of our undrained and undrainable camps may be readily reached through the fine silicious sand.

Tents.—The wedge tent is generally used. I saw no Sibleys. On Folly Island many regiments have been compelled to make more or less use of their shelter tents. One regiment, the 41st N. Y., is scarcely provided with any others. The tents in use on Morris Island are, for the most part, very good. The tents on Folly are by no means as good. Measures have already been taken, however, to furnish the whole command with new tents, so far as they may be needed. Several regiments have just been supplied.

In a few camps attempts have been made to stockade the tents, but as a rule, they have been pitched directly upon the ground. Most of the tents are provided with bunks. In many, however, the earth is simply covered with straw, palmetto leaves, &c.

Policing.—Policing is too much neglected, as I have observed is generally the case where regiments are encamped by the sea, and waste and filth are quickly trod into the ground, or covered by passing sand-drifts.

The opportunities for policing are much better on Folly than on Morris Island. Still the work is too frequently but indifferently done.

Bathing.—However much the troops, profiting by their proximity to the sea, may have been inclined to indulge in bathing during the summer months, it is very evident that at present they are not disposed to avail themselves of their opportunities. During the fortnight I was with the army, I do not remember seeing but one person taking a bath on the beach. The men were generally represented as washing their hands and faces daily. But even this is by no means universal in any regiment.

Cleanliness.—I do not think there is the same general regard for personal cleanliness in this army that I have usually observed in the Army of the Potomac. The term *average*, which I have frequently used in this connection in my tabular abstracts, must, therefore, be understood as referring to a local standard.

In many regiments, the apparent want of cleanliness was excused on the ground of inability to get suitable water. The principal causes, however, are inattention to these matters on the part of officers, and indifference on the part of the men—both occasioned by the excessive duties necessarily exacted of the troops during an active but somewhat protracted siege.

Clothing.—The whole command appears to be very well supplied with clothing. In no regiment did I learn that there was suffering from the want of it. Perhaps the supplies were most limited in the 1st North Carolina (colored). In the hurry of leaving Newbern, a part of the regimental as well as personal baggage of this regiment was left behind. Occasional complaints were made concerning the quality of some of the new issues, and so far as they referred to the blankets, certainly with much justice.

Rations.—The almost uniform response made to my questions relating to the character of the rations issued to the troops was, that they were now fair in both quantity and quality—that fresh meat was issued twice or three times each ten days—that soft bread was quite generally served to the men—that fresh vegetables, potatoes and onions, were frequently issued. The troops who were sent from Virginia in August, very generally stated that they had no where been furnished with better rations. (In the tabular abstracts, I have uniformly represented fresh vegetables as "now issued more freely.") This is a general statement. Vegetables have not been equally distributed to the whole command. Probably no regiment has received less than two rations weekly—several have received as many as eight. They have been issued most freely when there appeared to be the greatest necessity for them. Five rations in ten days may approximate the average issues now made to each regiment.

During the first fortnight following the landing of the expedition, the whole army appears to have been put upon rather short rations, the issues consisting principally of hard bread and salt meats of an inferior quality—particularly was this the case with the former; shortly after fresh meat began to be issued. It was not, however, until some time in September that the Commissaries appear to have furnished the men with fresh vegetables.

Nearly the whole of these issues were made to the army before Charleston. The first potatoes, however, received by the brigade or post division, during the months of June and July, were not issued, and were only obtainable by purchase. (The private soldiers were rarely able to obtain a ration in this way.) During a part of this time vegetables could be obtained in very limited quantities, and at very high prices, from the sutlers. But it was to the Sanitary Commission that the army was for two months almost entirely indebted for its antiscorbutic supplies.

It may be remarked that the greatest want of fresh vegetables existed at a season when the Government agents found it most difficult to obtain their usual supplies in the markets, and that the want was by no means peculiar to the Department of the South. Still the very general and imperative nature of the demand should stimulate the Subsistence Department to either open new sources of supply, or furnish some antiscorbutic equivalent.

I cannot help thinking that the ration which has been issued to our armies during the past two years is one quite unsuitable for men who have been stationed, and are likely so long as the war may last, in warm latitudes. Meats are too freely used, vegetables too sparingly. There is an excess of carbon in the food.

A very considerable proportion of the diseases to which the natives of the North are subject within the tropics originates in a violation of one of the plainest physiological laws, that the quantity and quality of the food necessary to maintain the physical system at a given fixed standard of health will vary as the mean temperature of the atmosphere varies. Now the scorbutic taint which is recognized in all our armies from Virginia to Texas, arises quite as much from an excess as from a deficiency of certain elements in the blood; a fact which we lose sight of too readily.

Cooking.—Bad cooking is almost as great a cause of disease as bad rations. I do not know that the cooking of the soldiers in this Department has been worse than usual in camps; probably it has been about the same; still the Commanding General has thought the matter of sufficient importance to make it the subject of a recent general order, in which the surgeon, with one other officer of the regiment, is required to visit the cook-houses and inspect the cooking, giving directions to the cooks, if necessary, three times daily. When visiting the camps, I

often found the surgeons engaged in this work, and I am convinced much good will result from it, not only from the advice of those who should be able to give it, but by causing the cooks themselves to feel that they have been placed under a more rigid surveillance.

Spirits of the Men.—As a rule, the men were cheerful and hopeful. This feeling was most apparent among the old regiments which came to the Department in 1861, and among the colored troops, with whom it rose to enthusiasm. Depression of spirits were acknowledged most frequently among the troops on Folly Island.

Hospitals.—The sick in hospital were, without exception, treated in tents. These were generally floored, furnished with frame bunks, tolerably supplied with bedding and clothing, and on the whole quite as neat and comfortable as I have ever seen regimental hospitals in our armies. The condition of the hospitals on Morris Island was perhaps something superior to that generally observed on Folly. Surgeons have at times been short of medical supplies of certain kinds, but at present there is no want. Some difficulty is still experienced in obtaining delicacies for the sick; a difficulty which would be most seriously felt, but for the large issues which are daily made to the hospitals from the storehouse of the Commission.

Sickness Rates.—The following statement will show the amount and per centage of sickness prevailing among the troops inspected on Morris Island and Folly. The inspections were concluded during the week preceding the 17th October.

Present strength, enlisted men.....	——
Whole number of sick.....	——
No. sick in hospital, (regimental)....	573
Per cent. sick in hosp. & quarters...	17.8
" " " " (regimental)..	2.9
" " " Morris Island.....	18.3
" " " Folly Island.....	17.2
Highest sick rate, Folly Island, 144th N. Y.....	41.1
Lowest " " " 107th Ohio	2.5
Highest " "Morris, 10th Conn.	70.1
Lowest " " " 3d R. I..	4.0
Per cent. sick in colored regiments..	19.3

I am not able to give the exact number of sick who have been sent from the army before Charleston to the General Hospitals at Beaufort and Hilton Head. They cannot, however, increase the average rate of sickness more than two per cent. This would give 20 per cent. as the sickness rate in the army before Charleston in October last.

In estimating the per centage of sickness on Morris Island, I have excluded those under treatment for wounds, who, if included with the sick, would add 1.1 per cent. to the rate of sickness.

The great difference between the per centage in hospital and the per centage excused from duty will be at once observed. In the regiment reporting the largest number of sick, the 10th Conn., only 4 per cent. were in hospital, yet 70 per cent. of the present strength of the regiment were on the sick list. The reports from other regiments show an almost equal disparity between the numbers sick in hospital and quarters. The only conclusion which can be drawn from such facts is, that the diseases prevailing among the troops are of a mild character.

The severe service exacted of the troops on Morris Island may fully account for the higher rates of sickness obtaining among them, and yet, excepting two or three regiments, such as the 10th Conn. and the 30th N. H., there is less sickness than on Folly Island. Thus, eight regiments, the 30th N. H., Indep't Battalion, N. Y., N. Y. Engineers, 100th N. Y., 52d Ohio, 47th N. Y., 104th Penn., 3d R. I., report not over 10 per cent. sick; while on Folly Island but four regiments: 107th Ohio, 41st N. Y., 74th Penn., 13th Indiana, report under 10 per cent. sick.

I cannot satisfactorily account for the different sickness rates in the 107th Ohio, and the 144th N. Y., in the 3d R. I., and the 10th Conn.

The 107th Ohio is a German regiment, and within the past year has suffered severely from disease. This fact has, no doubt, much to do with the present immunity.

The 3d R. I. has always been a healthy regiment, and in all matters of cleanliness a model. Being an artillery regiment, its service has differed from that which has devolved upon the infantry.

Per Centage of Sickness among Colored Troops.—The per centage of sickness among the colored troops was above the average. They have been heavily tasked, and although suffering much less from diarrhœa and dysentery than the white soldiers, are more subject to bronchitis and pulmonary difficulties. Moreover, the number of men suffering from chronic disabilities, which should have excluded them from the service, is unusually large; but especially is this the case with the regiments raised within the Department.

Prevailing Diseases—Camp Diarrhœa.—The prevailing disease not only in the whole command, but in each regiment, is *camp diarrhœa.* Dysentery is also very common, often following an attack of diarrhœa, frequently preceding it, and unquestionably arising from the same causes.

Camp diarrhœa is a disease probably more largely occasioned by general causes than most of those which the military surgeon is called upon to treat. Let an army be fed upon improper or scanty rations, and an increase in the number of diarrhœa cases will soon follow. Place the troops on the march or in the trenches, and diarrhœa will speedily make its appearance, and if the fatigue duties are burdensome and long continued, it will finally outrank all other diseases in the number of its victims. In a word, *want*—want of food, want of clothing, want of rest, want of spirits, everything which tends to break down the vital power of the soldier, is almost certain to occasion diarrhœa, and it is produced by the same causes with equal certainty, if not equal severity, in all our armies, whether in Virginia, Carolina, or the States bordering on the Gulf. According to the report on sickness and mortality of the army during the first year of the war, "diarrhœa and dysentery caused about one-fourth of all the sickness reported. On the Atlantic border more than half the army suffered, and in the central region the number of cases almost equaled the mean strength."

I believe the present tendency to diarrhœa and dysentery among the troops in the Department of the South to be attributable, in no inconsiderable degree, to special causes, but to result from a combination of such general causes as have been observed to develop elsewhere a similar tendency. Perhaps the most efficient of these general causes has been the excessive duty which the character of the siege has exacted, and which, at times, has fallen heavily upon the whole army. From the commencement of the Teche campaign until the fall of Port Hudson, every new advance and every additional imposition of field duty filled our hospitals and our camps with nerveless, spiritless, exhausted men, sick with diarrhœa.

Another cause common to our whole army is to be found in the unwholesome and unsuitable ration issued by the Government. This subject I have already alluded to.

But it may be asked, Why do these general causes, which must at times have operated with equal force in other divisions of our army, occasion this very great prevalence of diarrhœa among the troops before Charleston? As may be inferred from preceding remarks, I question whether the present prevalence of diarrhœa in the army of the South is unusual among troops whose general history has been the same. I believe diarrhœa to have prevailed in the army before Port Hudson in July last nearly, if not quite as extensively as it ever has on Morris Island.

It would be interesting to compare the reports sent from the two armies to the Surgeon-General's office.

Still, in whichsoever army this disease may have prevailed most extensively, special and local causes may have existed in both.

The army before Charleston is subject to the effects of an insular and semi-tropical climate, the characteristic features of which are a hot sun and a humid atmosphere, moving in strong currents inland from the ocean. The days are hot, the nights cool and damp. Even during the day, although the direct and reflected heat of the sun may be most oppressive in the shade, the sea-breeze appears delightfully cool and refreshing.

These differences of temperature of day and of night, in the sun and in the shade, cannot but unfavorably affect men who, engaged in laborious duties, are constantly

exposed to them, and often without the means of guarding against them.

Again, it should be observed that the army landed before Charleston and conducted its difficult and laborious siege operations at a season of the year generally regarded as most unfavorable to active campaigning.

Fevers.—Fevers have occasioned some sickness and considerable mortality.

The fever most frequently seen is that called typhoid, or typho-malarial; the malarial features of the disease being marked, while the typhoid predominate. Well-marked cases of remittent and intermittent fever occasionally occur, but these diseases can by no means be called prevalent. Several regiments returned but a case or two, and one, the 40th Mass., reported not a case of either, and yet this regiment had over 37 per cent. of its present strength on the sick list. It is an interesting fact, that not a single case of pernicious fever was reported to me as having occurred on Morris Island or on Folly since the occupation by our forces in July last. There have been but few cases of this form of malarious fever reported during the past three months in the Department, and they have, for the most part, originated on Port Royal Island.

Diarrhœa, although prevailing extensively, is neither a very severe nor a very fatal disease. It prevails rather in quarters than in hospitals. During the first year of the war, the mortality from diarrhœa varied in the several Departments from 0.9 to 9.6 deaths per thousand cases. Fevers, on the other hand, more generally send the patient to the hospital. While they constitute but a small proportion of the whole number of cases, they exhibit a large per centage among the sick in hospital, as well as a large relative mortality. During the first year of the war the mortality from "camp fever" varied, in the several Departments, from 60.95 to 101.8 deaths per thousand cases.

This relation is very well illustrated by the following abstract from the records of the General Hospital at Hilton Head, showing the number of cases and diseases admitted into the General Hospital from July 1st to Oct. 20th, 1863, together with the deaths occurring from each cause during the same period:

July, 1863. Diseases.	Patients Admitted.	Died.
Fevers	88	18
Diarrhœa	66	2
Other Diseases	64	4
Bowels	265	17
Total	483	41
August.		
Fevers	70	7
Diarrhœa	27	5
Other Diseases	26	4
Bowels	7	10
Total	130	26
September.		
Fevers	41	4
Diarrhœa	11	3
Other Diseases	8	2
Bowels	2	0
Total	62	9
October.		
Fevers	22	1
Diarrhœa	15	7
Other Diseases	19	1
Bowels	2	0
Not diagnosed	18	0
Total	76	9
Recapitulation.		
Fevers	221	30
Diarrhœa	119	17
Other Diseases	117	11
Bowels	276	27
Not diagnosed	18	00
Total	751	85

The preceding table does not, however, fairly exhibit the relative prevalence of the diseases now under treatment in the general hospitals of Beaufort. On the 25th of October a very large proportion were cases of diarrhœa. The prevalence of diarrhœa has, however, only been remarkable since about the 1st of October, at which time a large number of convalescents were sent North, and the hospitals filled with subjects of chronic diarrhœa, who were gathered together from the different regimental hospitals.

Scurvy.—I consulted the surgeons of 41 regiments, including the surgeons of the 3d R. I. and the 127th N. Y., with reference to the existence of scurvy among the troops. Of these, six only reported one or more cases of scurvy then under treatment; eight others had seen one or more cases since landing before Charleston. Twenty-

seven surgeons had not seen a case in the regiments to which they were attached. The only cases I saw were in the First North Carolina Regiment (colored.) In this regiment there was probably more scorbutic disease than in all the rest of the command.

The disease, however, originated in North Carolina, and had made its appearance among the contrabands on Hatteras Island, before they were enrolled as soldiers. The disease at present is almost entirely confined to the recruits from that island.

The 11th Maine reported more cases of scurvy than any other white regiment. This regiment, just arrived on Morris Island, had been stationed for a long time at Fernandina, where it appears to a considerable extent cut off from its supplies.

Well-marked cases of scurvy are extremely infrequent, and always have been. Indeed, the disease can hardly be said to exist at present; and, yet, there is a sub-scorbutic tendency, or cachexia, resulting from the use of improper, as well as insufficient rations, which more or less modifies the type of all diseases.

Mortality.—I have not the data for estimating the rates of mortality obtaining among our force at the time of my inspection, or during any portion of the siege. The deaths reported to me in the tabular abstracts are probably much below the actual number occurring. This certainly is true of several regiments, and renders comparative estimates impossible.

Conclusion.—From the facts brought to my knowledge, as well as from the observations personally made while in the Department of the South, I am led to the following conclusions:

First. That the duties exacted of the army before Charleston, difficult and exhausting although they may have been, have not been heavier than those which at times have been required of our troops in other Departments.

Second. That rations, clothing, medical stores and supplies of all kinds, although occasionally of an inferior quality and scantily issued, have yet been furnished to the troops, whether in camp or in the field, as liberally as to any command under similar circumstances in any Department with which I am acquainted.

Third. That no diseases either have prevailed or are now prevailing to an extent greater than has frequently been observed in our armies either during or subsequent to active campaigns; and that the prevailing diseases have originated to but a limited degree in special or local causes.

Fourth. That the hospitals, both general and regimental, are in a most creditable condition, and that our sick and wounded soldiers are well cared for.

Fifth. That the sanitary condition of the army has been slowly but steadily improving for several weeks; the change being not less marked in the reduced number of cases than in the milder forms which the prevailing diseases have assumed.

With supplies now more abundant as the requirements of the service grow less rigorous, as the unhealthy season has passed and the winter approaches, I have little reason to doubt but that the rates of sickness will continue to be reduced, until the sanitary condition of the army of the South may become as satisfactory as usual.

THE COMMISSION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Head-Quarters Third Regiment
New Hampshire Volunteers,
Morris Island, S. C., *Oct.* 1, 1863.

To the Sanitary Commission:

It is with inexpressible, yet heartfelt thankfulness, that we look back upon the few weeks which have passed since our entering upon this island, and mark the bountiful and benevolent labors of the Sanitary Commission.

In the midst of excessive labor, danger and hardship, when, owing to unavoidable circumstances always attending an active campaign, the wants of the troops can at least be but imperfectly supplied; just at this time of want, the Commission hailed us with open hands and a liberal heart. The wants of our sick and wounded were met, greatly to their comforts—while the entire regiment soon became indebted to the Commission for favors—in view of which, it is with great pleasure and unanimity that, as a regiment, we express to the Commission the following resolutions, our high appreciation of their work of benevolence, together with our most sincere thanks for the many favors received during the past:

1. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission,

as conducted in this Department, has our highest respect and entire confidence.

2. *Resolved*, That, as a regiment, we tender a unanimous vote of thanks to the Commission for its unprecedented work of benevolence, and great amount of good already accomplished, and of which we are witnesses.

J. HOMER EDGERLY,
2d Lieut. and Act'g Adj't 3d N. H. Volunteers.
JAMES F. RANDLETT,
Capt. 3d N. H. Vols., Commanding Regiment.

THE COMMISSION AT CHATTANOOGA.

As doubts have been expressed in some quarters touching the promptness with which the Sanitary Commission met the emergencies arising out of the battle of Chickamauga, there cannot be a better way of removing them than the publication of the following testimonials:

3d Division Hospital,
14th Army Corps,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

I have no hesitation in saying that the U. S. Sanitary Commission have done much towards relieving the suffering of the brave soldiers of the 3d Division of the 14th Army Corps.

Immediately after the battle of Chickamauga our men were thrown together without the necessary supplies to render them comfortable, and, as far as it was possible, the Sanitary Commission supplied their wants.

What was done by them was done without any reference to locality; the wounded being cared for equally, whatever State they may have originally hailed from. The sick now in this Hospital have been kindly remembered by the Commission. Friends at home, speed on the good work so gloriously begun!

GEO. E. SLOAT,
Surg. in charge 3d Div. Hospital, 14th A. C.

Hospital No. 3,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude and admiration that I recall to mind the donations from the Sanitary Commission to this Hospital, immediately after its opening.

After the battles of the 19th and 20th ult. outside this city, the wounded were brought in in thousands, and this Hospital, in common with the rest, was filled to overflowing. Here was a state of affairs suddenly brought about, and to be immediately provided for—and here was the Sanitary Commission—here the hour of need—here it was an oasis in a desert. Here we received from it dressings for our wounded men, wines, clothing, and several luxuries and necessaries. No one who at this time witnessed the *timely and material aid* of the U. S. Sanitary Commission but must say, "It is truly a heavenly institution—may Heaven bless and preserve its supporters."

PETER H. CLEARY,
Surgeon U. S. V., in charge.

U. S. General Hospital No. 2,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the great and substantial benefit the sick and wounded under my charge, since the late battle of Chickamauga, have derived from the kindness and liberality of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at this place, under the charge of Mr. M. C. Read. Although their amount of supplies has necessarily been limited, owing to the great difficulties in procuring transportation, and the large number of wounded requiring assistance, yet the good results from what they have been able to accomplish in supplying the wounded and sick with clothing, dressings, necessaries and delicacies, are almost incalculable. A great deal of suffering and destitution has been relieved through their kindly ministrations, that (under the circumstances) could not otherwise have been provided for.

It is a glorious institution, and deserves the countenance and warm support of every Christian and philanthropist.

FRANKLIN IRISH,
Surgeon in charge General Hospital No. 2.

Hospital No. 1, 1st Div. A. C.,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 25th*, 1863.

It is with great pleasure that I avail myself of this opportunity to bear testimony to the great good accomplished by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The benefits conferred upon the sick and wounded by this benevolent institution are far greater than our friends at home can imagine; and even laboring under the many difficulties by which they are surrounded, they still continue their good work.

Friends of the soldier and the soldier himself should feel themselves as greatly benefited by this Commission; and I heartily recommend that all "friends of the soldier" co-operate with the Commission, and add their help to push on the good work. It is a certain medium through which the soldier receives many necessaries for his comfort, while sick or wounded.

By order. E. H. DUNN,
Surgeon in charge.
Per Packard, Clerk.

FIELD HOSPITAL, R. C.,
Oct. 27th, 1863.

U. S. Commission, Chattanooga, Tenn.:

In behalf of the surgeons on duty in this hospital, and of the sick and wounded, I take occasion to tender grateful acknowledgments for the liberal contributions of sanitary stores which have upon various occasions been furnished by the Commission to those sick and wounded not only at Chattanooga, but at other points in the sick of the Army of the Cumberland.

In view of the fact that we are cut off from railroad communication, and of the almost impassable condition of the roads, we have been surprised that such liberal contributions could have been made. It is a fact, however, evincing great energy on the part of the agents of the Commission, showing them to be living, feeling men, working at the right time and place, and thus have they been able to meet the wants of the sick and wounded.

Very respectfully,
JOSEPH G. McPHEETERS,
Surgeon in charge Hospital R. C.

HOSPITAL NO. 1,
CHATTANOOGA, *Oct. 27th*, 1863.

I have had charge of Hospital No. 1 at this place since the late battle. Over a thousand of the wounded have been received and treated as well as our limited supply would allow. Owing to the obstacles in the way of transportation, the supplies of clothing, dressings, and suitable food was very inadequate, in consequence of which there were some that suffered. And I take special pleasure in stating that if it had not been for the timely donations of the Sanitary Commission, many more would have suffered. Their donations of delicacies, dressings, and *clothing*, were of incalculable benefit to our wounded. There was not enough on hand for the men to have a change; hence the supply of shirts furnished by the Commission was a gift that was much needed and deeply appreciated. The good deeds of the Sanitary Commission will be long remembered by the suffering wounded of this hospital, and will ever be appreciated by

J. Y. FINLEY,
Surgeon 2d Ky. Cavalry, in charge.

OFFICERS' HOSPITAL,
CHATTANOOGA, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

In the midst of the confusion and suffering immediately after the battle of Chickamauga, the Sanitary Commission came nobly to the rescue; nourished the wounded and famished soldier, pillowed his weary head, and by their timely aid saved many valuable lives.

C. C. BYRNE,
Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army, in charge.

We commented in the second number of the BULLETIN upon the difficulties we had to contend with in the West in obtaining transport, and the almost as great and far more provoking difficulties arising out of the bad character of the teamsters, and the lamentable want of proper control over them on the part of the military authorities. The following letter will help to show the energetic nature of the measures taken by our Special Relief Agent at Chattanooga, Mr. Read, to meet these difficulties:

CHATTANOOGA, *Oct. 20th*, 1863.

F. R. CRASY, ESQ., Stevenson:

I telegraphed you last night in regard to our train, and write this morning more particularly.

I have just seen Col. Hodges, who says you will need no further orders to secure the 20 wagons as soon as you are ready to load them, and can have them permanently until further specific orders; that the Sanitary train can be attached to any train coming through, and that if there should be any difficulty in that respect, telegraph from Stevenson.

An order was sent to Nashville last night, directing two (2) car-loads of Sanitary stores to be forwarded at once, and after that, all that could be, and never less than half a car-load per day, that will keep us moving. For fear my letters may not have reached you, I would repeat my previous suggestions, that the whole twenty wagons be loaded at once with edibles, ten with vegetables if you have them, or with the amount of ten wagons, making each load as near 1,200 lbs. as you can, never over 1,400. This may be arranged by mixing the leading dried fruits and vegetables in the same wagon, adding to the vegetables and dried fruit all the butter, ale, stimulants, farinaceous delicacies, codfish, oysters, milk, beef, &c., &c., you can, taking an inventory of the contents of each wagon, its number, and the name of the driver; if you have them, give each driver a few vegetables. Secure, if you can, soldiers or enlisted men as drivers, not citizens, and tell Pocock, if necessary, to *shoot* the first man caught stealing.

It is essential that he accompany the train *through, never leaving it till it reaches our rooms.* When he gets this side the mountains, let him

send a message by the couriers who will be passing him, stating where he is, and when he will probably be in. Telegraph when the train starts, and keep them stirred up at the North, so that there shall never be a want of stores to load the train.

If surgeons make requisitions from here, either in hospitals or with regiments, furnish them with clothing and hospital dressings as liberally as you can.

* * * * * *

Dr. Newberry writes on the same subject:

We had the entire and hearty co-operation of the military and medical authorities, and yet were, of course, compelled to share with them the inevitable necessities by which they were controlled. *More than our share* of transportation was granted at once, and when our first train of seventeen loaded wagons were included in the destruction of the three hundred loaded with Government stores, another train of twenty wagons was ordered for us, and from that time to the opening of the river we fully shared all the resources of the military and medical authorities. On the first trip of the steamboat, by the authority of Gen. Meigs himself, who was there, we were allowed to make up a liberal share of its load, and from that time to this, by special and comprehensive orders, we have been furnished with a regular allotment of transportation of a car-load a day from Nashville to Chattanooga. *From here we forwarded all and more than could by any possibility reach the scene of suffering.* In addition to the very liberal stock held in reserve at Nashville and below previous to the battle, we have since forwarded there over 5,000 packages.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

We have taken from the outset all possible pains to prevent any misapprehension as to the relations existing between ourselves and the Christian Commission. What these relations are and ought to be, is clearly pointed out in the following letter of instructions to our Inspectors, issued last December:

CENTRAL OFFICE, SANITARY COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, *Dec. 16th*, 1862.

To each Inspector of the Sanitary Commission:

The Christian Commission is a body designed to supplement and assist the chaplain service of the Army and Navy, as the Sanitary Commission does the medical service. Its accredited agents in the field are termed "Delegates of the Christian Commission;" they distribute books and tracts, and also give spiritual counsel verbally. The Secretary of the Christian Commission has expressed the wish that their attention should not be distracted from this, their ordinary duty, by undertaking personally the distribution of supplies. It is not considered best that they should attempt to perform their ordinary duty, however, during the tumult resulting from battles, and it is desired that they should be employed in giving such assistance as they can in the measures taken for the saving of life and mitigation of the suffering of the wounded on these occasions. It is proposed that they should, for this purpose, act at such times under the advice of the Medical Officers of the Commission.

You are therefore instructed, whenever the delegates of the Christian Commission offer to give you their aid for battle-field relief operations, or in other emergencies, to accept it gratefully; and, for the time being, you will deal with them, as far as possible, in the same manner as you would if each individual had been sent to you for special battle-field duty by officers of the Commission.

You are also instructed at all times to give special attention to the representations of the accredited agents of the Christian Commission with regard to the wants of the hospitals, and will meet those wants to the extent of the means at your control as far as possible, consistently with a just prospective regard for the wants of others.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,
General Secretary.

We know of nothing calculated to create an impression that the course here traced out has since been departed from either by the agents of the Christian Commission or by our own; nor do we know of anything that ought to lead anybody to suppose that two such organizations cannot work usefully side by side; more usefully, in fact, side by side than singly or apart. It is not always necessary, however, that false impressions should have foundation in fact in order to obtain currency. We heard the other day that the salaries paid to the agents of the Sanitary Commission in California alone amounted to $40,000 annually; the fact being that we have never had an agent in California, and consequently no salaries

have ever been drawn, though we have received immense donations from that State with little or no solicitation. Reports equally baseless are frequently put in circulation as to a conflict of interests and of aims between us and the Christian Commission, and we shall probably be compelled to recur to the subject occasionally for the purpose of correcting them.

The following letter shows the nature of the feeling existing between the two bodies in the West:

U. S. Christian Commission,
Branch Office,
Nashville, *July* 23, 1863.

Dr. J. S. Newberry,

Sec'y West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville:

My Dear Sir—I desire, on behalf of the Christian Commission, to render grateful acknowledgment for the uniform, generous and cordial co-operation of yourself and the agents of your Commission in our work of bringing spiritual comforts and blessings to the soldiers. But for your assistance at the first, and its continuance all along, our work would have been greatly impeded in the army of the Cumberland.

Also in my recent trip to Vicksburg, in the service of the Christian Commission, I was at all points kindly received and materially aided by the Sanitary Commission. My own feelings—that the work of both Commissions, though wrought in different departments, should be entirely co-operative—were fully reciprocated by your agents at Cairo, Memphis, and on the Barge on Yazoo River.

My observations of your work on that Barge were very pleasant. I saw stores dispensed to needy applicants most freely, and in surprising quantity and variety; and when I got back to the Bluffs, where the sick and wounded were coming into the division hospitals, I found bedding with your mark, dried and canned fruit, and lemons and chickens, which could have been furnished from no other source. I knew that, without the timely help of the Sanitary Commission, there would have been destitution, and consequent suffering, in many of those hospitals.

I want to bear testimony to the noble Christian philanthropy of the men in charge of your Commission in that department. I am persuaded they could not do that work from unworthy motives. Money could not procure such services as you are receiving, for instance, from Dr. Warriner at Vicksburg.

Every week's experience in my army work, bringing me among the camps and through the hospitals, and giving an opportunity, which I always improve, to look in at the different quarters of your Commission, leads me to a continually higher estimate of the work you have on hand. I am satisfied that your system of distributing hospital supplies is the correct one. Such large contributions as the people are making cannot be handed over to the army on any volunteer system, unless it be for a few days amid the emergencies of a severe battle. A business involving such expenditure would be intrusted by a business man only to permanent and responsible agents.

That among all your employés there should be no unworthy man, is more than a reasonable mind can ask. The Christian Commission and the Christian Church would go down under that test.

Let me close this letter of thanks, my dear brother, with my daily prayer—a prayer which I learned in your Soldiers' Home in Louisville, and have often repeated since in the Soldiers' Rest at Memphis, on the Barge in Yazoo River, in the division hospitals under the guns of Vicksburg, in the Nashville Home and Storeroom, and in the camps and hospitals at Murfreesboro'; a prayer fresh on my lips, as I have just come from seeing wounded and typhoid patients at Tullahoma and Winchester lifted from rough blankets and undressed from the soiled clothes of march and battle, and laid in your clean sheets and shirts upon your comfortable quilts and pilows—a prayer in which every Christian heart in the land will yet join—God bless the Sanitary Commission.

Most cordially yours,
EDW. P. SMITH,
Field Agent, U. S. Christian Commission.

A still fuller explanation of the relations of the two bodies is afforded by the following letter:

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
823 Broadway,
New York, *November 19th*, 1863.

Rev. Dr. Hawes:

Rev. and Dear Sir—A mutual acquaintance having informed me that you had made inquiry as to the relations existing between the U. S. Sanitary Commission and its colleague and coworker, the U. S. Christian Commission, and as to the different modes of work of the two bodies, I venture to make to you the following statements:

I speak first of the Sanitary Commission. Its functions are two-fold. First, in the discharge

of the duty imposed by its charter from the President of the United States, of inquiry and advice in respect to the sanitary interests of the United States forces, it, as the ground of its efforts to prevent disease in the army, inspects the condition of camps, barracks, transports, and hospitals, and makes report of deficiencies which are remediable to medical and military officers, and to Heads of the Governmental administration, when necessary. Being by its charter placed on a confidential footing with the official bureaux of the Government, it has thus been enabled to secure considerable reforms affecting the health and efficiency of the National Army. It also prints and circulates in the army, in large numbers, treatises, prepared for it by eminent medical men, on the chief sources of sickness in armies, and the means of avoiding and treating them. In these and in many other ways the Commission does much to prevent disease in the army—a better service than relieving it. Secondly—recognizing the fact that the most liberal and thoughtful Government must, in time of war, by the checks restricting its issues for the comfort of its troops —checks rendered necessary to prevent fraud and secure accountability—still, whatever its liberality and prevision, leave unrelieved much suffering—it seeks to be the minister of the people's bounty to those who are the victims of this exceptional working of the Governmental machinery. It also aims to relieve, wherever it can, the unavoidable suffering attendant on battles and the rapid movements of armies; (*e. g.*, at the sudden evacuation of the line from Falmouth to Aquia Creek, in June, the Commission's agents at the latter place were called upon, within two or three days, to feed and otherwise comfort 8,000 sick in transit to the hospitals at Washington.)

It also gathers into temporary "Homes" and "Lodges" the estrays of the army, discharged men, soldiers on furlough with defective papers which obstruct their movements, and affords to each the aid his necessity requires, taking good care that it harbors no deserters, or only for the purpose of returning them to service.

These ends it accomplishes through the bounty of the public, wherever the National Armies go or the nation's sick are gathered.

It exercises its functions to-day in Kansas, in Arkansas, at Chattanooga, all along the Mississippi, from Cairo to New Orleans, on the Rio Grande, amid the baleful swamps of Louisiana, in the trenches before Charleston, in Florida and North Carolina, on the peninsula of Virginia, on the margin of the Rapidan, with our recently starved and prison-marked, now paroled and dying brothers at Annapolis, and on the flag-of-truce boats, where first they realize the value of a friend in need—on every battle-field and in every hospital claiming its succor. It seeks not only to comfort the individual, but, by its union of preventive and alleviative efforts, it effects the invigoration of the national arm, and adds to the national strength.

In its ministrations it knows no State lines, and recognizes in the national uniform only the soldier of the nation.

It has thus far effected the objects above mentioned through an organization constantly improved by experience; and now, in the latter half of its third year, points to a great army of witnesses to its beneficence in proof that it has earned and justified the public confidence so generously granted to it. In the future, as in the past, it must depend for its power for usefulness on the free-will contributions of money to its treasury, and of supplies of hospital food and clothing to its storehouse.

Such is an imperfect sketch of the objects and methods of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

The U. S. Christian Commission is understood to be "a body designed to supplement the chaplain service of the Army and Navy, as the Sanitary Commission does the medical service." It brings to our troops in camp and hospital, in the persons of its Delegates, spiritual counsel and consolation, and seeks to promote in the army the religious life which struggles there against such fearful odds. Yet, in ministering to the soul, it does not despise its tabernacle, but accompanies its visits, and its gifts of religious books and papers, with the bestowal of food and raiment for the suffering body.

This, however, is a duty subsidiary to the prime one of religious ministration, and more than one officer of the Christian Commission has expressed his anxiety lest it should distract the mind of their delegates from their ordinary duties. It must be evident, however, that to some extent it all the better prepares the way for the cordial reception of their offices.

It may thus be seen that while each of the bodies above mentioned engages, to some degree, in the work especially characteristic of the other, (for the Sanitary Commission distributes annually tons of religious and miscellaneous reading matter, and the army chaplains, of whatever denomination, will tell you that they have found it no languid auxiliary to their work,) yet that it has, by virtue of its animating

principle, an essentially distinct work. The work of neither can be left undone. It cannot be given to another. Need we doubt that the Inspirer of all good thoughts and deeds has, by the ordering of His providence, allotted to each its proper work? Far be the thought that either would desire aught but blessing for the other!

And practically I do not find in the army any conflict in our respective spheres. There is more than enough for us all to do, each in his allotted place. Both in the armies on the coast and in the Mississippi Valley, the representatives of each have been in the habit of exchanging offices of courtesy, and maintain cordial personal relations. It is chiefly, I suspect, in the home field that there now and then appears to be a seeming rivalry. Until the millennium dawns we shall all, I doubt not, have more or less of partisan feeling enlisted for our especial work, magnifying its claims, and demanding that they shall engross public attention. The susceptibilities of our friends take alarm lest we hold not our proper rank in the public esteem, and hence what may be an honorable jealousy for our respective projects.

I cannot believe that the governing boards of either the Sanitary or Christian Commission have any such unbecoming fear. The loyal public which supports the National Government will not neglect either while it discharges its work with zeal, economy, and discretion. It will give to each its alms and its prayers, and stay not any effort to hasten the time when the need for each shall be done away.

I send to you herewith, in support of what I have written, and illustrative of the work of the Sanitary Commission, a collection of documents, among which I would especially call your attention to the letter of instructions to the Inspectors of the Sanitary Commission, written in 1862, by Fred. Law Olmsted, Esq., General Secretary; and to the letter of Rev. Edw. P. Smith, Field Agent of the U. S. Christian Commission in the West. (*Sanitary Reporter*, Aug. 15, 1863, p. 54.) Mr. Olmsted's letter was written after a very cordial and mutually satisfactory interchange of opinion between prominent officers of the two Commissions, and as the partial expression of a compact made between them as to their respective labors.

The U. S. Sanitary Commission considers the obligations it assumed as still binding, and so, from time to time, instructs those serving it.

I could wish that what I have written might move you, and perchance others, to a still more systematic support of both of these organized expressions of the Christian philanthropy of our people; and in the hope that it can in no way diminish the wide-spread sympathy for either,

I am, Rev. Sir, with high regard,

Respectfully yours,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary.

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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

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The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
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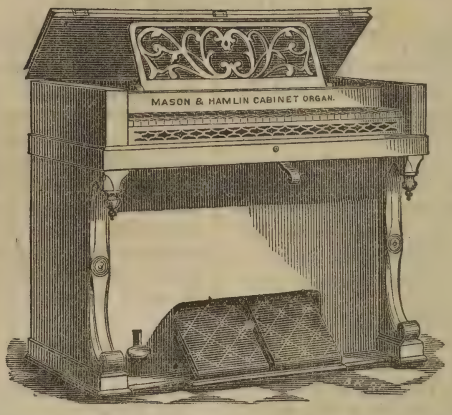
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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers,*

METROPOLITAN FAIR AT NEW YORK,

WITH HINTS FROM THE CINCINNATI FAIR, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR BRANCH OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

We have just seen Josiah Kirby, Esq., a respected and influential citizen of Cincinnati, and secretary, if we mistake not, of the "National Union Association," a loyal political body, to whose immense exertions is due the recent entire revolution in the Ohio vote. The well-known and respected judge, Edward Woodruff, is the president of this National Union Association, and lends it all the weight of his character. In this association originated the idea and the inception of a great fair for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers, in which Cincinnati, in a holy emulation, should endeavor to eclipse the splendid example set by Chicago, from whom, however, cannot be taken away the glory of being first in the field, and of having won the first victory with unfading laurels.

The Cincinnati Fair, on the model, somewhat enlarged, of the North-Western Fair, is to take place during the ten days from the 21st of December to the 1st of January; two great dates, the first being the anniversary of the actual landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock, and the second the opening of a new year. Rumors reach us that the whole City and State is astir with active sympathies, and that everybody is prepared, first, to give something; second, to buy something; third, to give back what they buy; and fourth, to buy something more, and keep it! All classes, occupations, trades—both sexes and all ages—are at work preparing for this great and humane occasion. And it is expected that the results will be as much greater in a pecuniary respect, (greater as a patriotic expression they cannot be,) as Cincinnati is older than Chicago, and Ohio, young and blooming mother of Western States, is more wealthy than Illinois, or Wisconsin and Minnesota. We shall wait with deep interest to see this difficult feat of beating the North-West performed.

We hear that the working man is Mr. Edgar Conklin, chairman of the Exec. Committee of the "Sanitary Fair Association," (for this is the baptismal name which the National Union Association gave their child, which is now adopted by Ohio. John D. Caldwell, of Cincinnati, is the secretary. Gen. Rosecrans is the highly ornamental and eminently useful president of the Fair, lending his glorious name to the enterprise, the importance of which none but a great and humane commander, long in the field, can fitly estimate. It is the pride and boast of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, that its fast friends are the general officers in the army, and the soldiers themselves. They alone know its first works and its last works, and its works all the time; how ubiquitous it is; how small a part of its doings its great labors on battle-fields represent; how active and methodical, and in harmony with military rules and customs, its system is; and how sure, when every thing else fails, the Sanitary Com-

mission is to be *on hand.* We are not surprised to find Gen. Rosecrans using his honorable leisure, after the tremendous labors and responsibilities of his great campaigns, in fostering, by his countenance and sympathy, his experience and his zeal, an enterprise necessary to keep the channels of the U. S. Sanitary Commission open, and full with the beneficence of the nation, whose sons are in the camps and on the battle-fields of Tennessee, the Cumberland, and Alabama.

The Mayor of Cincinnati, Mr. Harris, is the first vice-president, and lends municipal authority and support to the Fair.

We understand that the association have engaged the two largest and most convenient edifices in Cincinnati for the central depôt, or grand exposition: Mozart Hall, with its numerous and roomy apartments, and Mechanics' Institute, (Greenwood's Hall,) which is separated from it by an alley of twelve feet, which can be easily spanned by a bridge from the second story. In these two buildings will be the chief salerooms for fancy and portable articles; also the gallery of fine arts, towards which the citizens will lend all that is most beautiful in their private collections, or give what they may choose. It is proper to say, that for a city hardly yet as venerable in years as many of its own citizens, there is a remarkable taste for art in Cincinnati; and a surprising collection of fine paintings and beautiful sculptures might, and doubtless will be made from the homes of that now rich and populous city. The most beautiful private collection of engravings it ever fell to our lot to see, belongs to an apothecary in Cincinnati, whose modest home becomes thus a casket for jewels of art which a prince might covet.

One square off, is a building known as the Industrial Palace—perhaps 70 x 100 feet in dimensions, where the working machinery will be erected, and the engines and heavier articles sent in displayed as far as possible in their working order.

A temporary restaurant is now erecting, we hear, on Market Square, which will be from 50 feet wide to 300 long. What other arrangements are more recently made, our informant could not tell after ten days' absence.

It is proposed to occupy each evening of the Fair with a lecture, concert, or other innocent entertainment, in the great lecture-room of Mozart Hall.

Henry Ward Beecher, who, since his return, has made himself a sort of patron-saint of the sick soldiers and the Sanitary Commission, having spoken already three times in their pecuniary behalf, with a result of over $6,000, is earnestly invited to visit Cincinnati and speak during the Fair. The great sacrifice of his time, and strength, thus demanded—after a six months' absence—it is not wholly reasonable to expect, yet his self-denying patriotism may go to this length. It is commonly felt that he will not complete his magnificent round of duty, until he has in person reported in all our chief cities what he saw and felt in the high places of Great Britain, where he "came, saw and conquered." Other distinguished orators are expected to lend their services.

We understand that the Association are making arrangements with all the railroads centering at Cincinnati, to hire out to them a certain number of cars of each train daily, at about half rates. These they propose to fill along the route with passengers at full rates, and to put the profits into the treasury of the Fair.

It is impossible that the great experience in Chicago, with the lessons to be acquired this month, first at Boston, where the Fair opens on the 14th instant, and next at Cincinnati, only a week later, should not give an enormous impulse to the Metropolitan Fair in New York, commencing on the 22d Feb'y. Emulation, patriotism, humanity, will all combine to make the Metropolitan Fair one worthy of the commercial heart of the nation. Two hundred ladies, selected for their representative character, their taste, energy and talents, without regard to sect or party, are already enlisted in the conduct of the work. They have a Board of Managers of twenty-five ladies, "crême de la crême" in experience, administrative ability, and social sway, over them. Twenty-nine committees of ladies are already organized over the different departments, and are at work.

Their preliminary meetings have been business-like and thoroughly earnest, and

probably by the appearance of this number of the BULLETIN their plans will be fully before the public.

A business meeting is called for Dec. 11th, consisting of three hundred gentlemen, selected with great care, as representing the business heads of all the various industrial, commercial, trading, locomotive, financial, and charitable interests of the metropolis. By the time this article appears, the results of that important meeting may also appear in these columns. But writing now, on Dec. 5th, we venture to predict that that meeting will enter heart and soul into this work; that an effective committee of the most living and gifted business men, say of twenty-five, will be selected to govern and direct the masculine department of the fair; to solicit, secure and harvest the donations of all trades and benefactors willing to bestow upon the sick and wounded some evidence in the line of their own trade and calling, of their devotion and affection. By a systematic and earnest call, backed by the universal approbation of all heads of the community, its bank and railroad presidents, the chiefs of great manufactories, the heads of trades, unions, and the leading spirits in commerce, art, pleasure and ornament, an amount of valuable contributions could be collected which would astonish the world; make it a duty and a fashion too, and the contagion of sympathy and humanity, inspired by patriotism and pity, will carry this whole community, as by a universal impulse, a sea swept by a fragrant spicy wind, and turning its sparkling waves all one way, in the direction of a grand public beneficence to the hospitals and battle-fields of the country.

One of the first duties the gentlemen's committee will have to perform will be the selection of a place in which so great a market fair can be held. We can't roof in the Central Park, nor cover Union Square with glass. If we could, they might be thought hardly too large for so vast an exhibition.

Difficulties may present themselves, such as the lack of an appropriate place, the preoccupations of a great city, the disintegration of our community into parties, sects, classes and interests. Such obstacles are real and formidable. But all difficulties would give way before the strength of a whole and splendid populous metropolis, moving with sublime unanimity in one pathway of patriotic charity. Mountains would become mole-hills in the road of such a momentous progress. Things that look impossible would be done with ease—would do themselves. So great a force would take hold of the ropes, that the vast engine would move without any single arm feeling its own strain. Let not the various obstacles now invisaged in the natural selfishness of proprietors of buildings, look serious. Those who do not mean to yield, will presently beg the favor of having all their facilities accepted by the Fair. Let the business energy, the civic pride, the industrial skill, the average patriotism of the men of New York, be added to the taste, invention, and disinterestedness, the humane affections, the tender pity, the patriotic yearning of the women of New York, and nothing will be able to withstand their combined energy. The city will be theirs to sack for a fortnight, and the public might as well compound for half a million of dollars before hand. All hail to the Metropolitan Fair! We predict for it an entire and unexampled success.

A WORD TO OUR READERS.

In order that the BULLETIN may completely answer its purpose, it is desirable that it should not contain simply such information as may be furnished to the Commission by its regular agents, but all that can be collected from the friends of the work, official or non-official, all over the country. We can supply as full and particular accounts of the disposition made of the funds and stores intrusted to us as the country can require, by the aid of those whom we employ in their distribution. But there is of necessity an immense mass of facts bearing on our labors and their results, which we have no organized means of obtaining, and for which we must therefore rely on volunteers. Nothing could serve better to quicken the zeal of the people in localities in which little has been done for us so far, or is being done now, than accounts of the exertions made by people in other places. Everybody knows the effect produced on one's spirits when in pursuit of any enterprise, by the knowledge that

there is a multitude engaged in the same work. No zeal is proof in the long run against the sense of weakness or of isolation.

There is, we well know, behind our armies and their achievements, extraordinary as these are, something still more extraordinary, and that is the spirit of the people at home. We shall say nothing now of the fortitude with which they have supported reverses, and delays, and disappointments. This has already commanded the admiration and astonishment of the world, and has led a distinguished foreign writer to declare that there has been developed in the United States a type of character hitherto unknown, and generally deemed impossible—a combination of French fire, and excitability and enthusiasm, with the old Anglo-Saxon pertinacity and firmness. This is well, but this is not enough. Those who are interested in the war, as much for the revelation it affords of the moral qualities of the American people, as for the political results which it promises, have found in rich abundance better things than even courage and tenacity. What our people have done to save—done for humanity's sake, is even more wonderful and more interesting than what they have done for conquest. They have done it, too, without the intervention of legislature or tax-gather, upon no compulsion whatever, with nothing to gain by it either in territory or glory. There may be many parallels found for our demeanor in the field, but we doubt if our voluntary efforts to mitigate the suffering arising out of the war have had any example in history.

It is desirable that the details of this work should be as far as possible placed on record, and the knowledge of them diffused. We should like to be able to say in the Bulletin as much as possible of the way in which the vast amount of stores and money which pass through our hands are collected. There is, probably, hardly a box which reaches us which has not a tale of its own well worth telling, and which is not the result of efforts or sacrifices, or enthusiasm, of which we should all be the better of knowing something. There are incidents occurring every day all over the country within the knowledge of those who are working for us, which, if published, would throw valuable light upon the temper and spirit of our people. We have a pamphlet lying before us at this moment, entitled the "Philanthropic Results of the War," which tells a marvellous story in round figures. The sum total of the voluntary contributions of the public, made for purely philanthropic purposes since the beginning of the war, is, as we have already said, something very wonderful. But wonderful as it is, we are inclined to think that if we only knew the details of the process by which this grand result has been brought about, we should find in the efforts of single villages and hamlets and congregations things more wonderful still.

Now this is a want which our friends belonging to the branch associations, and all others who are all over the country interested in what we are doing, can readily supply, if they will only forward us as often as the occasion may arise, anything relating to the work in their own neighborhood, which will help to throw light on the temper with which the people of the North are facing this great crisis. There is not half enough known or ever will be half enough known of the fire and energy with which the men and women of the country districts have thrown themselves into the task of supporting and encouraging the army by kind deeds as well as cheering words. We cannot undertake to publish everything we receive, for our space is limited, but we will promise to publish all that is most interesting. It would be impossible to call forth such extraordinary exhibitions of enthusiasm as are now taking place in all the large cities in the shape of "Sanitary Fairs," if there were not behind all this, and had not been previous to all this, a great deal of work full as good, but done on a smaller scale and in smaller places. We ought to learn more about it.

We should wish also to make the Bulletin the means of keeping the public informed, as far as our space and opportunity will allow, about the fate and prospects of the thousands of soldiers who every month wend their way wearily homeward, to carry on in obscurity a long struggle with wounds or disease, and too often to sink

under them. The Sanitary Commission has already, as most of our readers know, established organizations to assist the friends of these men to find them in the hospitals, and to assist the men themselves in reaching their homes. But it is desirable that they should not all sink completely out of the sight at this point. Many of them have to fight a harder fight after leaving the army than they ever fought while in it—a long silent struggle with suffering or disability—a struggle too, which is often hopeless, and which at best promises no glory on earth. There cannot be too much said or done to encourage and console those upon whom this fate has come, and there are amongst them thousands of cases displaying the rarest patience and the rarest heroism; and more than all this, even the profoundest satisfaction at having been selected for the honors of this great martyrdom. God only knows how many such there are scattered through the farm-houses and villages all over the Union. We shall never know of them all, but it might be well for them and well for the public, if we could follow at least some of them into the furnace, and keep the nation in mind of the vastness of the sacrifices which so many gallant hearts have made for its salvation.

Under the head of correspondence in the 1st number of the BULLETIN, in a letter from Dr. E. A. Crane, Inspector of the Commission, the following statement occurs: "Scurvy does not now exist (Oct. 18th) in the command before Charleston, nor has it existed to any great extent among our troops since operations against Charleston have been commenced."

Dr. C. in a subsequent report corrects the above statement, as he was clearly in error. The Commission has received from Dr. Marsh, its resident Inspector at Charleston, abundant proof not only of the prevalence of cases of scurvy, but also of the scorbutic taint in other diseases.

THE HOSPITALS AT NASHVILLE.

NASHVILLE, *Nov. 12th*, 1863.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M.D.:

DEAR SIR—I have visited each and all of the hospitals repeatedly, and have done so at all times and seasons; occasionally with the surgeons, but generally alone and unexpected. And I have not only offered to all the surgeons of each hospital the services of the Sanitary Commission, for the health and comfort of their patients, but have gone from room to room, talking with the patients themselves, their nurses and ward-masters; observing closely and making inquiries as to food, diet, medicine, nursing, attendance, ventilation, sanitary supplies, etc.; and I have been gratified to see the general good condition of all the hospitals here. My impression is, that with rare exceptions, every surgeon in charge, and every assistant-surgeon, is earnestly desirous of doing everything within his power for the health and comfort of his patients. In some cases where I thought I had discovered mismanagement and carelessness, I afterwards found that there had been obstacles which the surgeons themselves were endeavoring to remove with as much anxiety as any one could have. And I perceive that almost every hospital is being continually improved in its interior arrangements for ventilation, comfort or convenience. The majority of the hospital buildings are light and cheerful.

The general sanitary condition of the patients in the hospitals is good. As I have said, the surgeons with hardly an exception, do everything in their power for the improvement of their patients, and are evidently very grateful for every aid and comfort extended to them from the Sanitary stores. Not only are they *willing* that delicacies, such as wines, cordials, jellies, &c., should be given under their directions, but their expressions of gratitude are such as can come only from the heart. Sometimes they accompany me from cot to cot, when I have my basket of delicacies, pointing out those who need this or that the most, giving orders to the nurses how to dispense them, and sharing with me the pleasure such distribution gives. In the distribution of grapes from the ladies of Cleveland and Cincinnati, none more than the surgeons partook of the little excitement and pleasure it afforded.

Every article of clothing or food given to hospitals from the Sanitary Commission, is given, *not* upon the requisition of the stewards or nurses, but upon that of the surgeon

in charge of the whole hospital. If they are delicacies, such as wines, cordials, &c., he orders them to be kept for the ward surgeons to distribute; and it is certainly the special interest of those surgeons to see that their own patients receive them; and as they make their morning rounds they usually make such inquiries. If it is edibles that are given, such as potatoes, onions, dried fruit, berries, pickles, etc., they are given (the surgeon in charge having drawn them) into the steward's charge, with orders that they shall, if necessary, be cooked at such times and in such a manner, and sent to or placed on the tables of such patients, as he directs; and he usually visits the tables or makes inquiries to see if his orders are carried out. The nurses are themselves *convalescent soldiers.*

There are, it is true, female nurses in service of the hospitals who do all that they can do. But those peculiar attentions which none but a wife, a mother, or sister could with propriety give, are bestowed by their brother convalescent soldiers, who are detailed for such duty. And when I have seen these poor fellows, themselves still needing nursing, (for as soon as they are strong they are sent to the "front,") wearily dragging themselves up and down the two, three or four long flights of stairs, carrying food, water, or medicines, and attending to their frequent and most necessary wants; oftentimes called from their own meals, waiting upon them in their turn day and night, and always so kind, so patient; my eyes have filled with tears of gratitude, and I have thought that if mothers and friends at home only knew how their sons and brothers were nursed by these noble fellows, there would be no more boxes sent to the Commission, marked "*not for the nurses,*" but sometimes, a full box marked "*for the nurses,*" with warm expressions of gratitude from those who, when a member of the family is sick at home, think that nothing is too good for the refreshment of the self-denying, weary "watcher," or even the watchful, anxious "Doctor" himself. Of course there are in every hospital some "grumblers" — those who had "never themselves received any good things from the Sanitary stores, and who were therefore firm believers in the surgeons and nurses eating everything all up." But these very persons I have generally found clothed almost from head to foot in Sanitary underclothing, having just partaken of Sanitary potatoes, onions, or dried fruit, and whose very sheets and pillow-cases, slings and crutches, came from the same source, all unbeknown to them. But I have found that their only idea of Sanitary stores was, cans or jars of preserves. They seemed to think that because their own good mother's jar of preserves (which they imagined she had put up) had not been sent straight to them, that neither they nor any one else had ever received any benefit from the Sanitary Commission. It was all a humbug. One of these grumblers, who had just eaten a quarter of a jar of peaches from the Sanitary stores, complained to me that they had not enough of such things. He thought that they ought to have them about twice a week. I asked him to make a little calculation as to the number of cans it would require for the hospitals of Nashville alone, to give each patient a taste once a week. To his surprise he found it would take 56,160 cans—or at 25 cents each, at a cost of above $14,000. On the contrary, however, there is much true gratitude.

I hardly need say to you that the importance and blessedness of this Commission grows upon me every day. I only wish that it could be seen as it is, in all its ramifications. But God alone can see all this. The world can see the great River of Benevolence bearing on its bosom the well freighted baskets from the ten thousand little rivulets of Northern charity—*love.* But none but the eye of our Heavenly Father can see the countless bodies and souls that are blessed by timely food, assistance, and care; by kind words spoken, by unwearied efforts made, and which are stamping with the very seal of Heaven the very same age and generation which witness this fearful civil war.

Respectfully and truly yours,

J. P. T. Ingraham,
Hospital Visitor.

[Extracts from letters dated Louisville and Nashville R. R. train, up trip, Nov. 27, 1863.]

* * * * *

The Commission's hospital visitor at

Nashville is a very modest gentleman. Any incident which brings in himself as one of the actors, is a contraband topic of conversation. But "Yours Truly" isn't a bit modest, believing that in many cases brass is better than brains, and acting upon the aforesaid principle, succeeded in drawing forth the living eloquence of which the following is but a lifeless, fleshless skeleton:

Away up in the fourth story of Hospital No. 3, and in a far corner of the ward, he noticed one day an old lady sitting by the side of a mere lad, who was reduced to the verge of death by chronic diarrhœa. She was a plain, honest-hearted farmer's wife, her face all aglow with motherly love, and who, to judge from appearances, had likely never before traveled beyond the limits of her neighborhood, but now had come many a long mile to do what might be done for her boy. In the course of a conversation, she informed Mr. Ingraham that if she "only could get something that tasted like home—some good tea, for instance, which she could make herself, and which would be better than that of the hospital, she thought it might save her son's life." Of course it was sent to her, and on a subsequent visit she expressed her hearty thanks, in a simple, hearty way, quite in keeping with her whole appearance. Still she seemed sad; something was on her mind that evidently troubled her, and, like Banquo's ghost, "would not down." At length it came out, in a confiding, innocent way—more, evidently, because it was uppermost in her thoughts than for the purpose of receiving sympathy—that her means were about exhausted. "I didn't think it would take so much money; it is so much further away from home than I had thought, and board here is so very high, that I have hardly enough left to take me back; and by another week I will have to leave him. I have been around to the stores to buy some little things that he would eat—for he can't eat this strong food—but the prices are so high that I can't buy them, and I am afraid that if I go away, and if he doesn't get something different to eat, that, maybe—" and the tears trickled down her cheeks, "he won't —be so well."

Mr. Ingraham, who is an Episcopal minister of the warmest hearted kind, thought that difficulty might be overcome; and if she would put on her bonnet they would go to a store where articles were cheap. Accordingly, they arrived in front of the large three-story building which government has assigned to the Commission, and the old lady was soon running her eyes over the long rows of boxes, bales and barrels that stretched for a hundred feet down the room, but was most fascinated by the bottles and cans on the shelves. He ordered a supply of sugar, tea, soft crackers and canned fruit; then chicken and oysters; then jelly and wine, brandy, milk and under-clothing—until the basket was full. As the earlier articles nestled under its lids, her face was glowing with satisfaction; but as the later lots arrived, she would draw him aside to whisper that it was too much; "really she hadn't enough money;" and when the more expensive items came from the shelves, the shadow of earnestness which gloomed her countenance grew into one of perplexity, her soul vibrating between motherly yearning for the lad on his bed, and the scant purse in her pocket, until, slowly and with great reluctance, she began to return the costliest.

"Hadn't you better ask the price?" said her guide. "How much is it?" "Nothing," replied the storekeeper. "Sir?" queried she, in the utmost amazement, "*nothing* for all this?"

"My good woman," asked the guide, "have you a Soldiers' Aid Society in your neighborhood?" Yes, they had; she belonged to it herself. "Well, what do you suppose becomes of the garments you make, and the fruits you put up?" She hadn't thought; she supposed they went to the army; but was evidently bothered to know what connection there could be between their aid society and that basket. "These garments that you see came from your society, or other societies just like yours; so did your boxes and barrels; that milk came from New York; those fruits from Boston; that wine was likely purchased with gold from California; and it is all for sick soldiers, your son as much as for any one else. This is the U. S. Sanitary Commission store-house; you must come here whenever you wish, and call for everything you want;

and you must stay with your son until he is able to go home; never mind the money's giving out; you shall have more, which, when you get back, you can refund for the use of other mothers and other sons; when you are ready to go I will put him in a berth where he can lie down, and you shall save his life yet!"

She did—God bless her innocent, motherly heart—when nothing but motherly care could have achieved it; and, when last seen, on a dismal, drizzly morning, was, with her face beaming out the radiance of hope, making a cup of tea on the stove of a caboose car for the convalescent, who was snugly tucked away in the caboose berth, waiting the final whistle of the locomotive that would speed them both homeward.

The benefit of the Hospital Directory, with its facilities for learning through the agents who are at the front, the condition of the wounded, is illustrated by the following telegrams copied from the dispatch-book of the Nashville office U. S. Sanitary Commission:

On Oct. 29, Gen. Underwood, of Boston, received information that his son, Col. Underwood, was mortally wounded in Lookout Mountain. Mr. Walker, of the same city, received similar tidings concerning his son. The anxious fathers started for Chattanooga, arriving at Nashville Tuesday night, Nov. 3d, and applied to the agents at that point for information. At 11 P. M. this message was sent to the front:

NASHVILLE, Nov. 3.

DR. M. C. REED,
U. S. San. Com., Chattanooga:

Report immediately condition of A. B. Underwood, Colonel 33d Mass., severely wounded on 28th; also, Capt. G. M. Walker, Co. "E," same regiment. General Underwood and Mr. Walker here.

J. C. HOBLIT.

Wednesday morning at six o'clock the travellers took the train for Stevenson. At noon the following was received at Nashville office:

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 4, 1863.

J. C. HOBLIT,
Nashville.

33d Mass.—Capt. Walker is slightly wounded, getting better. Col. Underwood is comfortable, but in critical condition.

M. C. REED.

Two hours later.

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 4, 2 P. M.

J. C. HOBLIT,
Nashville:

Col. Underwood, 33d Mass., thigh fractured; says he is contented and well cared for, but longs for his friends—wife, mother, father.

M. C. REED.

Immediately Nashville forwards this trio:

NASHVILLE, Nov. 4.

JOSEPH WALKER & CO.,
Boston:

Dispatch just received from Chattanooga, says Col. Underwood comfortable, but in a critical condition. Capt. Walker slightly wounded, getting well. Messrs. Underwood and Walker left here this morning for Chattanooga.

J. C. HOBLIT.

M. C. REED,
Chattanooga:

Underwood and Walker left here this morning; have telegraphed Boston.

J. C. HOLBIT.

San. Com. Agent, Stevenson:

Underwood and Walker on road to Chattanooga. Tell them Col. Underwood comfortable, in critical condition. Capt. Walker slightly wounded, getting well.

J. C. HOBLIT.

Thus, the first information received by the travelers after leaving Boston, was obtained late at night, on their arrival at Stevenson, while their families were cognizant of affairs that afternoon, and the wounded sufferers made acquainted with the advent of their visitors that morning.

Col. Underwood was brought to Nashville. His wife and father were with him; but probably they will, day after to-morrow, be on this same up-train, his corpse riding in the baggage-car.

Just as Boston, by means of the nation-wide appliances of a Commission that is broader in its sweep than all the States put together, heard speedily from far off Chattanooga, so did Wisconsin.

A poor woman therefrom, whose husband and son were in the ranks, learning that the latter was wounded on Lookout, made her way to Louisville, from whence she was sent by your agents to Nashville. It was absolutely impossible to get her further front, and the Nashville office again telegraphed Dr. Reed for information. The next day, Thursday, it was answered that her son was severely wounded, and had been placed in an

hospital which was subsequently captured by the enemy, in whose hands he then was. Sad news, but better than none. It was communicated to her as kindly and gently as possible, yet drove her almost frantic. Several times on Friday she came in to hear more. There was nothing to hear; Saturday, nothing; Sunday, nothing. The suspense became terrible. Was he alive? Were his wounds attended to by the rebels? Was he dead? She prayed for some tidings, even the worst, rather than the agony of suspense. Late Sunday night it came, and she was informed "dead." It was a terrible stroke, and the writhings of her soul were horrible, even to behold, much more so to bear. Monday morning she returned to the office, wofully stricken in heart, but calmer than on the previous evening, and said, pointing to the flag over the door, with tears in her eyes, but smiles streaming through the tears, "THAT FLAG IS DOUBLY DEAR TO ME THIS MORNING. IT HAS COST ME SOMETHING."

Her means were exhausted, and the Commission defrayed her expenses home.

Were those few dollars well spent upon such a mother, wife, martyr, and heroine?

Sitting over the way, in the seat by the stove, is a stout farmer, from Danvers, Mass., who is constant and heartfelt in the recital to those about him of the gratitude which he feels to the Commission for the assistance he received from it in getting to the front and back. He says no other power could have got him passes. He is right about that. Government refers all such applications to the Louisville office, and has never yet refused one vouched for by Dr. Newberry. A sword and haversack are in his hands. They belonged to his son. There is a long white box in the baggage car, which the stout farmer goes out to look at when we stop. It is a very quiet box, too; and there can be no danger of its moving. Yours truly.

A DAY AT THE "NURSES' HOME" AT WASHINGTON.

Seven women and ten children received to-day. First, a mother of a soldier; next, a soldier's wife; three hospital nurses; then two wives of refugees, with the children.

The soldier's mother showed me this telegram to explain to me who she was, and why she was in the city; it was from her son, "Mitchel's Station, Va." "I am to be shot on Friday next—can you do anything for me?" With this telegram in her hand she had hastened on from her distant home by the first train to Washington, to appeal to the President to save her son. She gathered up and brought with her such testimonials as she could obtain; also evidence of the circumstances connected with her son's enlistment. She was a poor woman, but neatly clad, and with an honest and earnest face, about fifty years old. Her husband, it seems, was so much shocked by the telegram that he could not act, so she had to come on. As she came to the Nurses' Home, almost utterly exhausted, she looked like one who had been through a terrible night of darkness, watching by what seemed a death-bed, but had suddenly caught sight of a bright gleam of light, for she had already laid her case before the President, with such testimony as palliated the act of "desertion" on the part of her boy, and the sentence of death had been revoked. It seems that some months ago her son had run away from home to enlist, (he was but 17 or 18 years old,) and his parents had gained no intelligence of him until a letter came in his handwriting announcing to his mother that he was in the army and was to be tried as a "deserter," but that there was no danger but what he should get off. His mother had then written, asking him to tell her all the circumstances of his enlistment. The letter which he sent in return his mother brought on to Washington with her, and as she allowed me to copy it, I insert it here.

"DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER—I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines, hoping to find you in good health. I had got your letter, and I read it; then I gave it to the Colonel, and I do not know what he will do with it, but I hope he will not go hard on me. He is a very severe man when he gets angry, and a very good one when he ain't angry. I have been very sick with the fever and ague, and I am out in the rain here ever since I have been caught, without even a tent. All the house we have is a few limbs of trees. I have the shakes every other day. Where we are in

camp is a very sickly place, and very lousy. The lice is taking away our clothes. It ain't safe to put down our crackers without we put a stone on them, as the lice would run away with it. I am now getting along first-rate. I just now got your letter from home. While I was writing this letter I received your letter, dear mother, and read it. And now I will tell you how and where I enlisted. The day that I left home I was made acquainted with a fellow named, as he called himself, Captain Cody, and he agreed to take me to Pennsylvania and get me three hundred dollars, and I asked him how, and he told me when I got there I would see. When I got there he took me to some house in South 2d Street, as he called it, in Philadelphia, and we stayed there that night, and in the morning we got our breakfast; then he gave me some liquor to drink, and I did not know where I was till I found myself in Norristown, Pa., in the Marshall's office, talking to the doctor. I was asleep. When I awoke the doctor told me that I was an enlisted man, and I said I was not, and he showed me some papers that I signed when I was drunk; but I do not believe I ever signed a paper; then I asked him where was the money, when he told me that the boarding-master took two hundred dollars, and said I owed him twenty-five more. The boarding-master was Captain Cody. He swore that I owed him the money, and that is all I know about it. And there was a lieutenant who said he would get me clear for twenty-five dollars, and I gave it to him; but I did not see him any more. The place I enlisted was Norristown, Pa. That is all at present.

"I send my best love and respects to you all. Good bye.

"If you have got one of John Peterson's pictures send it in the letter. That is all.

"Direct to ————————,

————————"

Such was the letter which was followed by the brief message sent to his mother, "I am to be shot next Friday; can you do something for me?" As she handed me the telegram, although her son was now safe, yet her whole frame shook. She had two other sons, she said, one a little fellow of ten, and the third at home, disabled from wounds received in the battle at Chancellorsville. Her journey and expenses had used all the money she had been able to bring from home with her, and it was a real joy to us to be able to give her a resting place and kind care; and then to-morrow we shall furnish her with a ticket to her home.

The soldier's wife—very young and frail—has journeyed alone over 500 miles in the last two days, to see if possible her husband alive.

She found him in the hospital near by; has been with him all day, and has now come in to the "nurses' home" full of hope that he will recover, and delighted to find the admirable and kind care which is bestowed by the General Hospitals upon those who are sick; she had heard such terrible reports of neglect. She is grateful, very, for the shelter and the hand of sympathy which the Home offers to her.

One of the wives of the refugees with the four children was brought to the office of the Sanitary Commission by the Provost Guard, early this morning. She was miserably poor and destitute, and with her children sadly in need of warm garments. According to the papers which she carried with her, and her own story, she had come on all the way from Tennessee in order to find in Alexandria some relatives of her husband who were said to live there. Her husband had been shot by guerrillas near his own house, where he had gone on a six days' furlough from the army, not very distant. As she had nothing to live on, and feared for her own life, she had fled, and came on here. In Alexandria she had searched in vain for her husband's relatives. She brought all her goods with her, namely, a bed, blankets, and some clothes, in four dirty bundles. She now wants to get back as far as Kentucky. She says she can't feel at home "way North;" that she had rather starve "down South" than stay up here. She and her children will be made comfortable, and then sent on their way. She is not entirely satisfied with her treatment at the Home. She thinks that she is not "waited upon" as a soldier's wife from so far off ought to be, and that she has received very little attention; and that if this house pre-

tends to be a kind of hotel only, where they don't take any pay, they ought to look a little more after the folks they entertain; that at any rate, a black girl might be sent to take care of her children; and that surely it is a great place where a body has to help sew upon the garments which are going to be a *present* to her! But still upon the whole, she is glad of the shelter and the garments, though her pride is a little wounded; and most certainly the poor little children are warmer for the flannels and shoes. It is strange how these "poor whites," who haven't energy enough apparently to harvest the crop which is to keep them alive, can overcome all the difficulties of such a journey as this, with baggage and children, travelling a thousand miles.

The other woman, wife of a refugee, came from Culpepper with her six children; her husband is with her. They were simply "starved out." At one time the place was in the hands of the rebels and they couldn't get away; at another time in the hands of the Federals and they hoped not to be obliged to go away—and so for two years they had lived on—until at last, as the husband told me, they had but "half a gallon" of meal left. So they had to give up their home; they succeeded in escaping the guerrillas, and after a long and terribly wearisome journey on foot with these six children, they reached a place of protection. They had been at the Sanitary Lodge, in Alexandria, resting for a day or two before they came on to Washington. They were Methodists and persons with deep religious faith. Under all their labor and sorrow (for they buried a little child shortly before they left their home in Virginia) they were quiet and cheerful, apparently having perfect confidence that God would yet give them a home and all the happiness which was best for them. The children, too, in their gentleness and expression of face, bore mark of the daily prayer which had never failed as the mother told me, to be offered at the poor man's altar. This family had seen better days, but there was no complaint at their lot. They are grateful for the kindness we are able to show to them, though they are somewhat closely packed together in two rooms. Arrangements are made to ticket the whole family through to their old home in Western Pennsylvania.

Two of the hospital nurses are from the General Hospital, one worn down by excessive labor, needing a few days' rest; the other has just returned from a visit to her home, and is unable to go over to Alexandria to-night. The third is from a regimental hospital, where she has served devotedly for near two years—and she is ordered in by the surgeon of the regiment, whether she will or no, to rest for at least one week; but it seems as if resting were to her the hardest form of labor. She will soon be really sick if she cannot go to work.

THE REPORTS OF THE FORTNIGHT.

823 Broadway, New York, *Dec. 4th*, 1863.

To the Standing Committee of the U. S. Sanitary Commission:

Gentlemen: — Since your last weekly meeting, tidings have reached this office from New Orleans, South Carolina, Washington and Norfolk, in the Coast District, and by telegraph and by letter of Rev. J. H. Heywood, from Louisville and Chattanooga, in the Western District.

Dr. Blake wrote from New Orleans on the 20th of November; he had not ventured, in the absence of his co-workers, now doubtless with him, to absent himself from New Orleans, the centre of his field of work. Ere this, he has, I doubt not, either gone or sent to our forces on the Rio Grande, conformably to his previously expressed intentions. His five helpers, who sailed from New York on the 14th of November, must have joined him by the 22d of that month.

Dr. Blake reports our relations with the agents of the Christian Commission in New Orleans to be cordial. Scurvy exists within the department. The vegetables about to be forwarded to the department from Maine, in addition to those sent in successive moderate consignments from this port, and perhaps also a cargo or part of one from up the Mississippi, will doubtless effect for our troops the same sanative results as similar gifts have elsewhere done.

Dr. Marsh writes from Beaufort on the 26th of November, that his own health is improving, though he is yet evidently by no means well. He thinks that to establish

a vegetable garden for the army in South Carolina, more would be required of the Commission than the cost of seed. The army can spare no labor to superintend or cultivate it. Negro help can probably be procured by detail, but skilled superintendence is not likely to be afforded by the army.

Rev. Mr. Low, of Massachusetts, has, during the past week, called at this office on his return from the Department of the South, to express his strong sense of the great usefulness of the Commission's work, as administered by Dr. Marsh in that department. He stated that his conviction was the result of extended application for facts to both medical and military officers, as well as to privates, and that Dr. Marsh's statements as to the value of our work were borne out by the testimony of all these classes.

From Dr. Page, in South Carolina, there is still nothing later than the last of October.

From the army of the Potomac we have no advices since our compactly stowed wagons, one for each corps, were, under the charge of their respective Relief Agents and the general superintendence of Mr. Johnson, cut loose from communication with their rear, about the time of the late general advance. The Elizabeth has been for some days lying with an assorted cargo of battle-field stores on board, ready to connect our work with the army at perhaps a new water base, while a considerable depot has been maintained at the R. R. station in Alexandria, if perchance communication might be resumed with the army by the Orange and Alexandria road.

At Fortress Monroe Mr. Gale has been active in pushing on, by flag-of-truce boat, the supplies of food and clothing sent to him by the Commission for that purpose. From the 17th of November, inclusive, the value of the supplies sent to date is carefully estimated at $28,000. General Meredith expresses the belief that our consignments mainly reach our men, and advises that we continue to forward. He cordially facilitates our plans, and offers at any time to send up the flag boat for the conveyance of our stores. Our Philadelphia associates have expended considerable sums to this end, and for zeal and promptitude in forwarding our goods our Relief Agent at Baltimore, Mr. J. T. Pancoast, deserves great praise.

Mr. Wm. H. Hadley has been entirely successful in the first work of his special mission to Maine. He has engaged the brig William and Mary, of 2,200 bbls. capacity, to sail for New Orleans on or before the 14th inst., with a cargo of vegetables for our troops there. The value of the cargo at Portland is estimated at $3,800. Should not insurance be effected? I enclose with this report Mr. Hadley's last letter and the charter-party, which seems to be arranged on terms favorable to the Commission.

Another load can probably be obtained by gift from the people of Maine; shall it not be gathered for this or some other department?

In the West, the attention of the Commission, as of the whole country, has been attracted by the engagements about Lookout Valley and Mountain, Tenn., and at Ringgold, Ga. Dr. Newberry was with the army at the time of its encounters with the enemy. Rev. Mr. Heywood forwards telegrams from Mr. Eno, at Bridgeport, dated November 28th, which state our loss to be —— wounded. Mr. Heywood also writes from Louisville, that large supplies were going forward, and Chicago had, 48 hours after being notified of the need, placed in Louisville 40 tons of hospital stores, and added in the next three days five carloads more.

Respectfully yours,

J. Foster Jenkins,

General Secretary.

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

Mr. Brown, the Superintendent of the Hospital Directory, at Washington, furnishes us the following summing up of its labors:

The Washington Bureau of the Hospital Directory of the U. S. Sanitary Commission was opened to the public on the 27th of November, 1862. In the month of December following, I was ordered to Louisville, Ky., to organize a Directory Bureau for the Western Department of the Sanitary Commission, and in January ended my labor in that department. Returning to Washington, and thence proceed-

ing to Philadelphia and New York upon the same duty performed at the West, I completed the entire organization of the four bureaus by the 5th of March, 1863. Since the 1st of June, at these several bureaus, the returns from every U. S. General Hospital of the Army, 233 in number have been regularly received.

The total number of names on record is 513,437. The total number of inquiries for information has been 12,884, and the number of successful answers rendered, 9,203, being 72 per cent. upon the number received. The remaining 28 per cent., of whom no information could be obtained, are of those who perished in the Peninsula campaign, on the field before Fredericksburg, Stone River, Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, &c. At the latter place the remains of those who fell in that great fight have been gathered together with tender care, and rest beneath the tombstone bearing the simple but expressive inscription, "The Unknown."

The purpose of the Hospital Directory originated in the humane desire, on the part of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, to supply a greatly needed want, viz., an organized bureau for the record of the inmates of army hospitals, whether becoming such by disease or from wounds received in battle, in order to meet the inquiries of the friends of the soldier unable to obtain any knowledge of the name or locality of his hospital—inquiries often painful to hear from the harrowing anxiety and persistency with which they are presented. But the benefit conferred by the Directory has not been merely to friends of the soldier, but also to the soldier himself, becoming as it has a medium of communication for wives and mothers searching for husbands and sons—a channel through which has flowed those messages of love, and cheer, and hope grateful to the fevered brain, soothing to the agony of wounds. How far it has accomplished its aim let the figures which have been given be the answer.

In the nine thousand two hundred and three answers lies hidden a history which no human eye shall ever read. And the gratitude with which they are acknowledged is shown by the letters on file. Mothers write of their "undying gratitude" for the simple announcement that their boys are doing well in hospital; others "invoke the blessing of God upon the labors of the Commission," and sisters "will cherish the warmest gratitude while memory lasts." And then the eagerness with which inquiries are made; "By the love you bear your own mother tell me where my boy is!" "Only give me some tidings!" "Is he dead, and how did he die?" "Is he alive, and how can I get to him?" "I pray you tell me of these two nephews I am seeking for. I have had fourteen nephews in the service, and these two are the only ones left."

Of the many scenes witnessed in the bureau, I can only mention a few without attempting a description. A mother has not heard anything of her son since the last battle; she hopes he is safe, but would like to be assured—there is no escape—she must be told that he has fallen upon the "federal altar;" an agony of tears bursts forth which seem as if it would never cease; another less excitable does not tire of telling "how good a boy he was;" "no mother ever had such a son as he," sobs a third. A father presents himself, a strong man and yet young in years, to receive the same announcement, and sinks with audible grief into a chair; another with pale face and tremulous voice, anxious to know, yet dreading to hear, is told that his boy is in the hospital a short distance off; he grasps the hand with both of his, while tears run down his cheeks, and without uttering another word leaves the room. "It is very hard, my friend," was said to one mute with grief, "but you are not alone." "I know it, sir," was the prompt reply, "but he was the only one I had."

A woman of more than ordinary intelligence and appearance, with almost breathless voice, "I want to find my husband; I have not heard from him for several months. I have written to the officers of his regiment, but do not get any reply; can you tell me where he is?"

"Will you please to give me his name and number of his regiment." "O, yes sir." "You will find him at Lincoln Hospital; the city cars pass near the building, and the conductor will point it out to you." A momentary shade of incredulity is perceptible; then turning her full deep eyes swollen with emotion, she gives one look—a full reward for a month of labor—and in an instant is in the street. A little, wiry, keen-eyed woman, in a tone between a demand and a request, wants to find her husband. He is not far off. She fairly screams with delight, and rushes wildly out of the office. Thus the varied scene goes on. One inquirer leaves the room grateful, buoyant and happy, to be followed by another equally grateful, who will "tread softly" the remainder of his days, for the "light of his dwelling has gone out." As each departs another figure is added to the list of "inquiries and answers," and the seemingly monotonous work of the bureau is resumed.

The Sanitary Commission has a history to

which it may point with pride and gratitude, and not the least of its benevolent features, not the least of its works of mercy and of comfort, will be the record of its Hospital Directory.

THE WORK IN TENNESSEE.

NASHVILLE, TENN., *Nov. 16th*, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

SIR:—Returning to Nashville on the 21st of October, after near three weeks' absence by reason of sickness, I found that the work of the Commission in Nashville had made good progress — excepting the Soldiers' Home, which was not in as complete order as it had previously been under the administration of Mr. Crane.

I found at Stevenson and Bridgeport sufficient stores for distribution, but was pained to learn that all our efforts to obtain transportation to Chattanooga had been unsuccessful for at least two weeks. I should, perhaps, recall to your mind that we had succeeded in getting eleven wagon-loads of stores into Chattanooga previous to the battle—stores which had been not only comfort, but *life* to the wounded. After the battle we had still every favor from the authorities, and our full share of the resources of the Government; but we were compelled to share, also, in the terrible straits and difficulties which the army suffered, and which, till the opening of the river, combined to render the maintainance of the position not only difficult but in the highest degree doubtful.

At Chattanooga there were about 1,400 in hospitals of the most severely wounded —and such as could not be removed. Our great anxiety was to send more stores to these, who, without a full supply and good variety of food and stimulants, must die. As the well men must be fed, we promised, that during the existing pressure upon the transportation, we would only send edibles. For a week or more no stores of any kind were sent from Nashville, the cars being all used to transport Gen. Hooker's corps. When they began to carry commissary stores, Mr. Robinson informed me that he could not obtain transportation, as the Q. M. was ordered by Gen. Thomas to ship only those stores. I at once called upon the Q. M. in charge of transportation, showing him the following order from Gen. Rosecrans, which I supposed provided for just such general orders as the one he had now received; he agreed with me that it did, and promised transportation:

ORDER OF GEN. ROSECRANS.

HEAD-QUARTERS DEP'T OF THE CUMB'D,
STEVENSON, ALA., *August 19th*, 1863.

SIR:—The General commanding authorizes the use of half a car daily for the shipment of sanitary stores by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, from Nashville to such points South as may be desired. This letter, if exhibited to the Quarter-Master at Nashville, will procure you the transportation at all times, unless the exigencies of the service should make it necessary temporarily to suspend the permission. *General* directions to ship nothing but government stores, will not affect this permit. Should it be necessary to suspend it, *special* directions will be given.

I am, very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
C. GODDARD,
Lieut. Col. and A. A. G.

DR. A. N. REED,
U. S. Sanitary Commission.

The next morning, fearing that he was wrong, he declined to send our stores. I in vain assured him we would only send something for the wounded men to eat, that would take the place of the stores he was sending, and would do just as much toward supplying the army, while it gave to the wounded a more palatable and nutricious diet. He admitted the force of all this, but feared he should be disobeying orders. Thus, several precious days were lost, no one, perhaps, censurable, but the wounded were suffering. At the same time we had a similar disappointment at Stevenson. Twenty teams were given to us—ordered at Chattanooga to report for sanitary stores. After some delay they reported, but the mules were so poor, that it was evident they could not return to Chattanooga even with empty wagons. At this time of discouragement came a dispatch to send stores to Bridgeport, that they might be ready for the first boat; meantime, by a new order from General Thomas, I had received the use of one car a day from this place to Bridgeport. The boat would take stores only from Bridgeport to Kelley's Ferry, some eight or ten miles from Chattanooga. Rev. Mr. Kennedy, who had tents, and the charge of the Lodge at the foot of the mountain, was informed that he was more needed at the Ferry—both that he might aid in taking care of the goods as they were

unloaded from the boats, and also that he might lodge and feed the sick brought to that place by the ambulances, and who must wait for the boat to return.

Writing to Mr. F. R. Crary, our storekeeper at Stevenson, he says, "I want you to be here when the goods arrive, that you may enjoy with me the pleasure of seeing these hungry men receive their first supply. The want of food here is so pressing that I have often seen the soldiers gathering the grains of corn which had fallen from the feed troughs of the mules, roasting and eating them."

The pleasure alluded to they have experienced, and now we are sending to Bridgeport, and have been since the 3d of this month, one car-load each day; and these stores are sent promptly from Bridgeport to Chattanooga. The amount of work to be done at Chattanooga was so great, that I felt compelled to provide additional help. In this emergency I applied to M. D. Bartlett, State Agent from Wisconsin, to aid us in the general work. He promptly consented to go, and is now rendering efficient service where help was most of all needed. I also employed Mr. Wm. A. Sutliff to take charge of the depot at Kelley's Ford, while Mr. Sill gave his entire attention to the care of the goods from the Ford to Chattanooga, accompanying and staying with the teams.

When the stores leave Bridgeport by boat, an agent goes with them to protect them on the way. Thus, with much labor, the way is now open for the speedy and safe transfer of stores to the extreme front of our army—and we are improving it faithfully. The Agents of the Commission in this department are located as follows: Rev. S. C. Hoblet, Relief Agent, and Rev. J. P. T. Ingraham, Hospital Visitor, in Nashville; Rev. M. F. Loomis, Hospital Visitor on the line of the railroad between this and Bridgeport; Capt. Brayton, in charge of Soldiers' Home; Mr. Charles Robinson and Mrs. Hopkins, in charge of store room. At Bridgeport, E. H. Pocock and Dr. Coates, in charge of depot. At Kelley's Ford, Rev. Mr. Kennedy in charge of Lodge; Wm. A. Sutliff in charge of Depot. At Chattanooga, M. C. Reed, M. D. Bartlett, F. R. Crary, M. Redding. You are already informed the work each of these Agents is doing, by their reports made to you. To the best of my knowledge, they all labor kindly, faithfully and successfully. Rev. Mr. Hobit devotes much of his time to answering letters and telegrams of inquiries sent both from Louisville and from all parts of the States.

In addition to this, he is particularly valuable in obtaining passes, transportation, approval of requisitions, &c.

Rev. Mr. Ingraham starts nearly every morning with a basket of delicacies—goes to some one of the 24 hospitals; and after obtaining permission of the Surgeon, visits all parts of the hospital; looking after the quantity of the food, and learning the wants of the sick, and if he finds any special cases of suffering, does all that can be done for their relief. At the same time he informs the Surgeon that there are many articles at the sanitary rooms, which are sent expressly to aid him in the care of his sick, and that he can always have them for the asking.

He leaves his delicacies with those who are most sick or desponding, but never until he has obtained the approval of the Surgeon who has charge of the patient—thus respecting the rules and regulations of the service, and insuring the sympathy and hearty co-operation of each Surgeon in his work.

Rev. Mr. Loomis is working in the same kind manner in all the hospitals at Murfreesboro', Tullahoma, Cowan, Winchester, Stevenson and Bridgeport; and at the same time visits as many as possible of the regimental hospitals at the different posts.

Under the care of Capt. Brayton, the New Home in Nashville will not prove second to any in the Nation. The building is well adapted for the purpose, and Capt. B. will now have it nicely fitted up. He is doing a glorious work.

Mr. Robinson's duties are most onerous; too much so for any one to do, and do well—for any length of time. It is quite enough for one, even with the excellent business talent of Mr. R., to keep the books, attend to receiving the goods, and the through or wholesale shipments.

The many calls that come from so many quarters every day besides these, are more

than Mrs. Hopkins can attend to; I have therefore asked for them an assistant, so that when Mr. R. is compelled to go to the depot, as he often is, then there may be some one always ready to receive applications for stores, and to wait upon them promptly. I have informed you by letter Mr. Robinson feels able to do all this, but his friends feel that it is too much. Mrs. Hopkins gives the finishing touches of a woman's hand in the arrangement and distribution of the many little articles prepared and sent by the ladies at home. And for every marked package, where the label is definite, at once sends a letter of acknowledgment.

Mr. E. I. Eno, sent by the State of Illinois to look after the interests of her soldiers, is with us and of us, and ever ready to co-operate in the general work. All stores at his command, and they are many, are turned over to the Commission for general distribution. Mr. Eno also left his office and endured great personal exposure and hardships in organizing our depots at Bridgeport and Kelly's Ford—and the removal of the stores from Stevenson. We are under very great obligations to him for his timely and valuable assistance. His acts all show that he regards the struggle in which we are now engaged as National; and that our sympathy and help should be given alike to all the sufferers. The only questions to be asked in the distribution of our stores being, Is he a soldier of the Nation? Is he in want?

At Murfreesboro' the hospitals are again enlarged, and a larger number of the sick and wounded will be accumulated there than have been for many months.

There is one general hospital at Tallahoma in charge of Dr. Woodward, our excellent friend because he is the true friend of his patients. As usual, his hospital is in the best possible condition. At Cowan there is also at this time a large number of sick. The hospital at Stevenson is being removed. At Bridgeport there is a hospital, where those brought from Chattanooga are to remain until taken on by rail. Here we have been feeding them on their arrival. Mr. Pocock telegraphed me that he fed 100 in one day, which he did with very little material to work with; had a tolerable supply of tin-cups, but had no spoons for his soup. He obtained volunteer help from one of the regiments stationed near.

Mr. Kennedy is also doing the same work at Kelly's Ferry, with better accommodations. Mr. Eno informs me that he saw him feed about 100 as they lay in ambulances, too badly wounded to get out, but compelled to wait for the boat. The passage from that point by boat to Bridgeport is made with little comfort and great exposure; but it is luxurious when compared with the former dreadful ride in ambulances over the mountains, a distance of some sixty miles; climbing the most rugged mountain sides with great difficulty, and then going down the other side as rocky, steep, and rugged; the rocks so large in the path that the patient who had become too exhausted to hold on to the sides of the ambulance, is from the motion dashed from side to side; or if there are two, they are thrown alternately one upon the other.

Col. Paine, of the 124th O. V. I., shot through the thigh, was one of the thousands that took such a ride—and he assured me that he suffered ten thousand deaths—that he would much prefer death to such a ride again; and he had no bones broken.

The ride now by river occupies about 12 hours, while by the ambulances over the mountains the average time, I have been informed, was five days, and sometimes much longer.

I shall not attempt to give you any account of the work at Chattanooga, relying wholly upon your agents there, who I doubt not will report to you.

The destitution of Chattanooga has been such that we have all felt more than usual responsibility, to do our utmost for its relief; and while we have met with a great deal of delay in shipping our stores, and not a little when we knew the decisions of the subordinates were not in accordance with the wishes of the General commanding, we have at all times felt that all were disposed to go as far as possible, consistently with their understanding of their orders, to aid us in our work. I am informed that Dr. Perin, the Medical Director, whom I have ever found ready most heartily to aid in anything which he believed would enable him better to provide for the sick under his

care—has given us even more cordially than ever, every assistance in his power. While he does not believe that he can be helped permanently, except by those who comply at all times with the rules and regulations of the service, he is decidedly opposed to duplicating the channels of supply for sanitary stores, as well as to our sending forward any not designed for general distribution. I cannot in justice close this report without expressing my thanks for the liberal help we have received from the Telegraph Company in this place and in Chattanooga, and the kind manner in which that help has been given.

We have used the telegraph largely—most of our communications have been sent free—and they have been sent from the office with but little delay.

I cannot better illustrate the work of this help than by the following incident. On the 12th of this month you telegraphed, "Sanitary Commission, Nashville. Answer immediately; is Henry Ford, Co. F, 35th Ohio, alive? hospital 13—Father.—J. S. Newberry."

Inquiry is at once made at the hospital; and I answer immediately—Henry "Ford, Co. F, 35th Ohio, is alive, slightly better; says—Tell father to come as soon as he can." This soldier whispered in his feebleness, "I can't telegraph; it will cost too much." He had given himself to his country, but he had not money enough left to send such a message to his father. This message was one of the hundred sent free.

I have found time to make but few careful inspections of the different hospitals of the city—but have made inspection of a part of them.

The large Field Hospital known as Cumberland Hospital is located west of Nashville, about one mile from the State House. The patients are furnished with tents. The cooking is done in wooden buildings erected for this purpose. The hospital is divided into 4 divisions, each division into 4 sections, each section is composed of 4 wards of 25 patients each. Each ward has a sufficient number of attendants. The washing is mostly done by contrabands. We made a donation to them through "Sister Anthony," of Cincinnati, of something like 150 yards cotton cloth; they, like many others, have worked long without pay; and although they are used to it, I do not believe it is necessary. There are 60 of them in this hospital. The total number of patients treated the past month was 1,402—305 of which were surgical cases. No hospital gangrene, and but one case of erysipelas.

Twenty-eight deaths have occurred during the month.

Large shipments of stores are now being sent daily to Chattanooga and Bridgeport, and often to Murfreesboro' and Tallahoma.

Very respectfully, A. N. Reed.

Dr. Newberry telegraphs:

"I have just returned from Chattanooga. Our wounded were never so well cared for; our own work never better done, never more valuable, or as highly appreciated. Every facility given us authoritatively, and especially by General Meigs. Supplies were in abundance, and no hospital requisition left by us unfilled. Full stores still arriving in great quantities. Four thousand packages to Nashville, and over two thousand down the Mississippi within ten days. I have sent large invoices over-land, and also by river to Chattanooga. All our hands nearly worn out with hard work; shall write as soon as able. J. S. Newberry,

"Associate Sec. West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission. To Dr. Bellows, *President."*

The following on the same subject has also been received:

General Field Hospital,
Stevenson, *Nov.* 3, 1863.

A. N. Reed, M. D.,
Inspector U. S. Sanitary Commission:

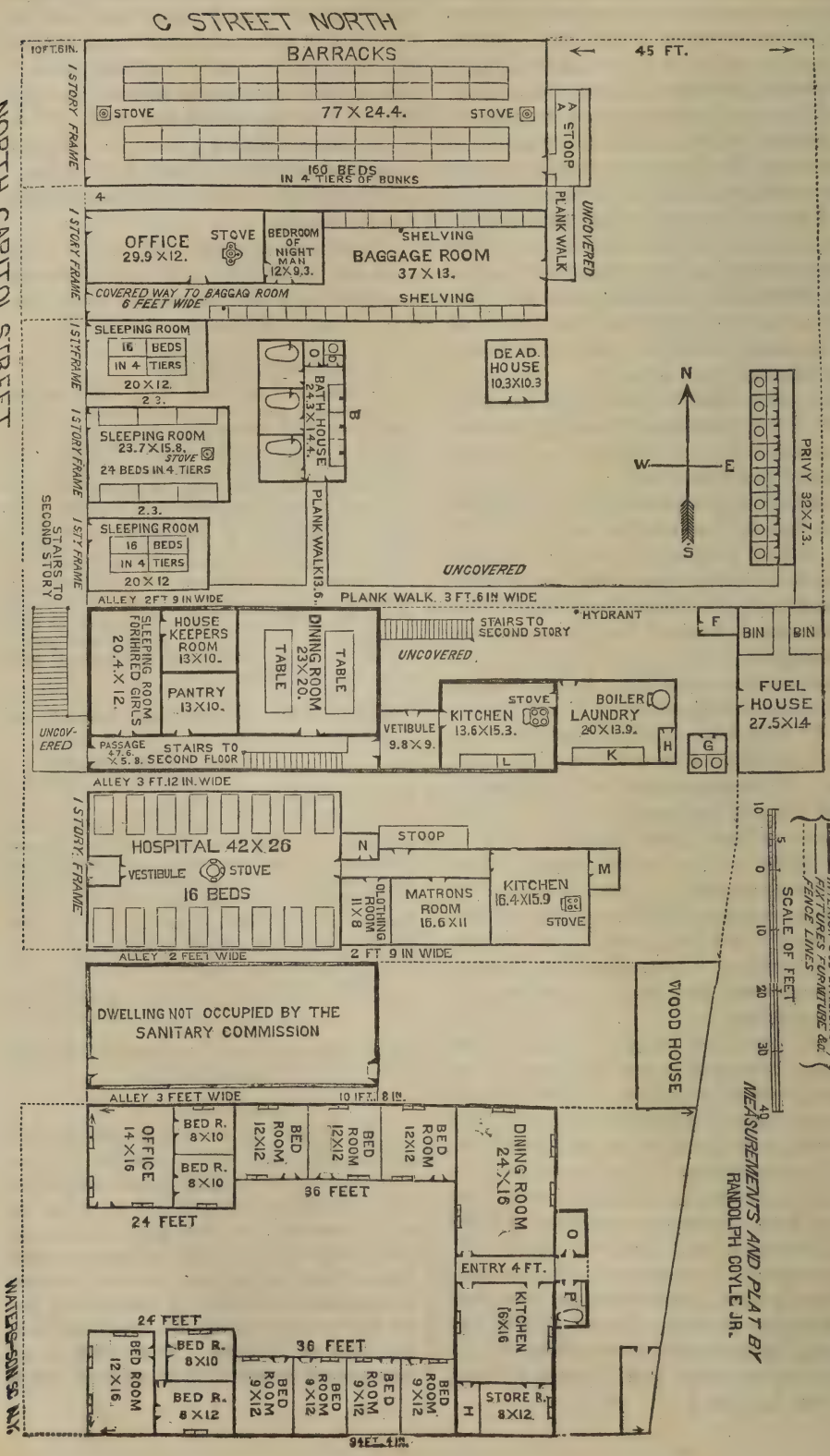
Sir—A low rate of mortality and great immunity from suffering have attended the efforts of the Sanitary Commission in supplying the sick and wounded brought hither from Chattanooga, with vegetables, clothing and delicacies. I am happy to say that the various agents of the Commission have been unremitting in their attentions, and success has been their reward.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient serv't, D. J. McKibbin,
Surg. U. S. V.

THE "HOMES" AT WASHINGTON AND LOUISVILLE.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"The Home" is where sick and disabled soldiers, not otherwise provided for, are sheltered, and fed, and cared for; where discharged men, waiting for their pay, can be protected, and those who have been paid, but are too feeble to go on, may rest; while others still, who, in reaching this point on their homeward journey, have exhausted all the life they had left in them, may quietly die, ministered to by the hand of kindness. These buildings are conveniently located near the railroad station,



GROUND PLAN OF THE "HOME" AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE "HOME" AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

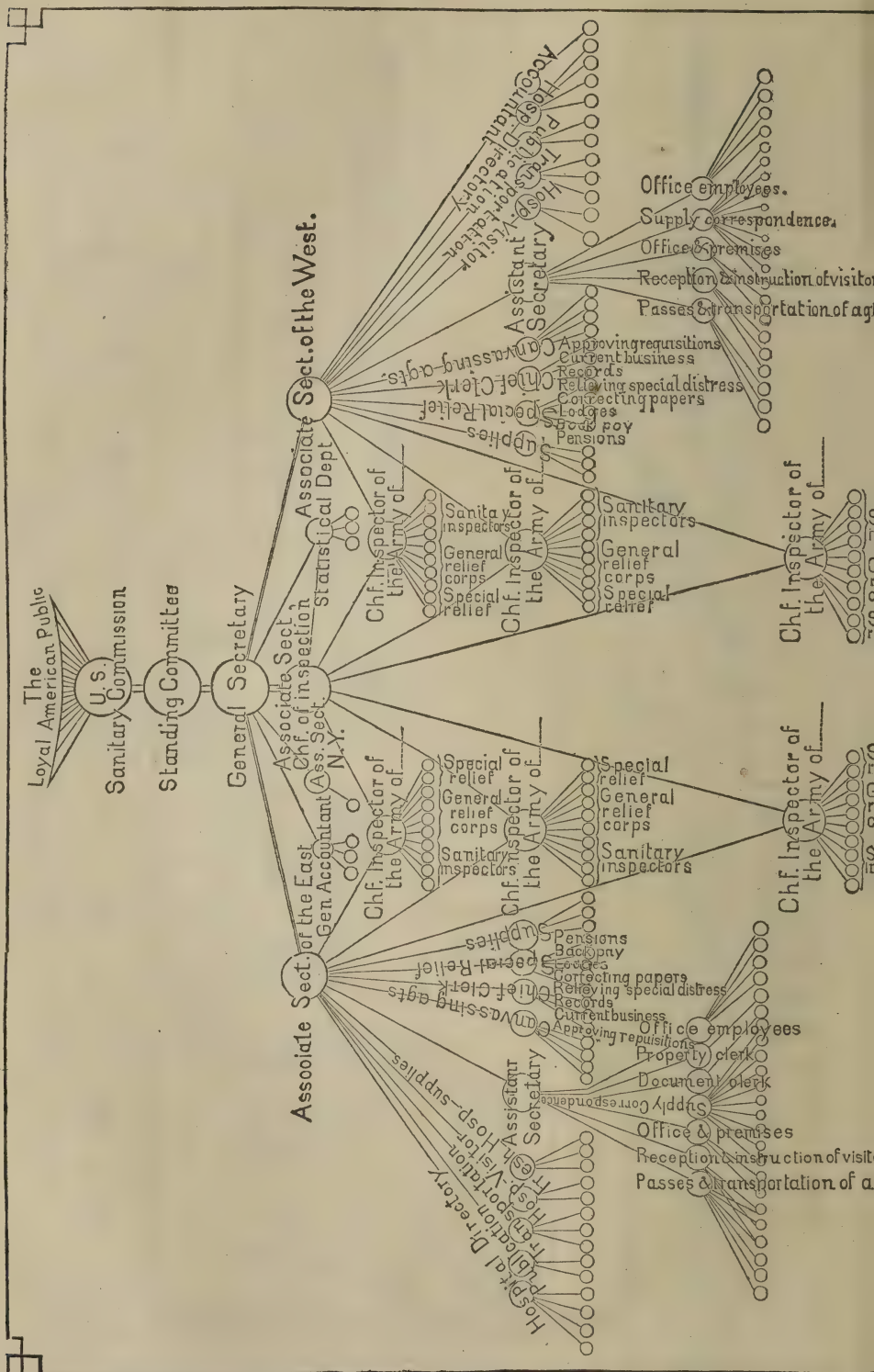


DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SANITARY COMMIS

well supplied with water, light and air, and contain accommodation for three hundred and thirty men, besides the buildings where the wives, mothers, and sisters of soldiers are provided for when they come on to find their sick or wounded relatives in the hospitals, or in the army. Where there is now the "Home" which has given in the last year some 35,000 nights' lodging and some 85,000 meals, there was, two years and a half ago, the beginning made in the work of "Special Relief." A single room was hired, with four beds, and a few soldiers, who were otherwise utterly uncared for, were here made comfortable until they could be sent to their homes, or hospitals, or regiments, as the case might be. Thus by degrees the place has grown into its present size. The "Home" is conducted upon principles of kind humanity, but with a strict regard for all rules of military discipline. It never seeks to make pity an excuse for false tenderness, but rather to strengthen the muscles of war. For a report of the working of the "Home" during a given period, the reader is referred to Vol. I., No. 1, of THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN, pp. 12–16.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

The objects, methods, and workings of the Home at Louisville, are all explained by what is said above in regard to the Home at Washington. They are but parts of the same roof which would protect the soldier who faints by the way, and without weakening his energy, would still remind him of those who, even to the distant places, reach out a hand from home.

At this Home, since January last, there have been over 25,000 nights' lodging given, and about 100,000 meals furnished. For more detailed account of its work see SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN, Vol. I., No. 2, p. 51; also monthly reports in the "*Sanitary Reporter.*"

The following is the report of the "Home" for the month ending November 30th, 1863:

Whole number admitted	416
Whole number lodged	3012
Whole number meals	7530
From the following States:	
Maine	9
New Hampshire	16
Vermont	12
Connecticut	8
Rhode Island	7
Massachusetts	40
New York	133
Pennsylvania	41
New Jersey	3
Delaware	17
Maryland	7
Michigan	13
Illinois	2
Indiana	4
Wisconsin	25
Ohio	17
Invalid Corps	39
Regular Army	9
Missouri	2
Minnesota	2
Citizens	8

THE AGENCY FOR THE PURCHASE OF FRESH HOSPITAL SUPPLIES.

Six months ago the Sanitary Commission proposed to act as the unpaid agents of the hospitals in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria, for the purchase of their fresh supplies. The proposition was seconded by many of the surgeons in charge, cordially endorsed by the Surgeon-General, and immediately accepted by Dr. Abbott, Medical Director; and a general order was issued, directing all surgeons in charge of hospitals, at regular times, to send in their requisitions to an appointed agent of the Commission, and to purchase only through him.

The object of the Commission, in undertaking this work, was to secure to the soldiers in the hospitals a greater amount, with larger variety, and better quality of food than could otherwise be purchased by the hospital fund; for previously all supplies had to be bought at the Washington markets, which are extravagantly high, and limited in variety. Most of the purchases had to be made on credit instead of at cash prices; for the hospital fund by which supplies are bought is not credited to the hospital until the end of the month, when it is known how many of the rations due to that hospital have not been drawn from the Commissary. This new method defended the inmates of the hospitals against such hospital stewards (of whom there were too many) as made their purchases in such a way that they gained money themselves at the expense of the soldier.

These ends were secured first by purchasing all supplies at wholesale prices at Philadelphia, where the whole State is a garden, by means of our agents, who had no single interest but to obtain the very best materials possible at the most reasonable cost, at cash prices; for the Commission advances the money day by day, and at the end of the month collects it from the Commissary, by orders from the several hospitals.

These supplies are brought to Washington by Adams Express Company, in arctic cars, which

run daily. These cars are refrigerators, lined with zinc, and carry ice.

The supplies for the day, bought the afternoon previous in Philadelphia, are ready for delivery at five o'clock in the morning, when the wagons are sent from the hospitals, each for its invoice, as ordered, leaving the order for the day following. Thus, with perfect system, all wants are met, and every article in its season which the best market in the country affords, is furnished to the soldiers in hospital.

The hospitals say that their men were never before so well fed, with so good a variety, and at such reasonable cost. The average money-saving to the hospitals by this agency is estimated at about fifteen or eighteen per cent., with a corresponding increase of food for the soldiers. The accompanying report for November will indicate somewhat the variety and amount of supplies purchased, and will give to the friends at home some assurance of the provision which is made for the soldiers in hospital, (especially when to this is added the fact the three great staples of nourishment, beef, bread and potatoes, are obtained direct from the Commissary.) This month of November has been the month of smallest orders during the six months. Some previous months, when the hospitals were full, the amount purchased was nearly one-half greater than this.

THE RICHMOND PRISONERS.

The rebel authorities seem to be getting ashamed of their treatment of our prisoners. If we are to judge from Mr. Foote's late speech in the Confederate Senate, their own public are shocked by it, as well as that of the North. But, in the meantime, there is little doubt that, let their will be ever so good, our men are not likely to be by any means well off, and the Commission continues the energetic despatch of supplies; but it is right to warn our readers that there is some reason to believe that no further distribution of them will be permitted by the Richmond government. Mr. Gall, our agent at Norfolk, reports, on the 7th inst.:

"The flag-of-truce boat 'New York' will start for City Point sometime this P. M. Enclosed please find an invoice of the supplies which we send by her. Maj. J. E. Mulford, commanding the flag-of-truce boat 'New York,' informed me this morning that *substantial food* would be more acceptable to our prisoners than so many delicacies. This was suggested to him by the rebel officers of exchange. No delicacies should be sent except those intended for hospital purposes. I had an interview with Gen. Meredith this moning, who assured me that the arrangements for distributing the supplies to the prisoners are very good, and that he has no doubt that most of the articles sent are distributed to our men. The General also informed that the officials heretofore in charge of the Richmond prisoners have been dismissed, and that other and more humane men have been appointed to take their places. This seems to augur well for the better treatment of our poor fellows. The General will continue to send supplies of food, &c., as often as twice a week. I received a letter from Gen. Dow, requesting me to send, for the use of the officers in Libby, about a dozen boxes of Seidlitz powders. I will write to Mr. Pancoast, asking him to send them from Baltimore. The New York will probably not go up again before Wednesday or Thursday next."

Lieutenant-Colonel Irvine, of the Tenth New York Cavalry, Special Agent of the Exchange Bureau, writes from City Point, Va., 23d ult., as follows:

"For the last ten days I have been busily engaged in supplying clothing, commissary, hospital and medical stores to our prisoners, officers and soldiers, and citizens of Richmond. I do not doubt but a nominal degree of good faith will be observed by the rebel authorities in distributing our supplies. Our intercourse in respect to furnishing and the distribution of supplies is amicable, and the rebel authorities manifest fair intentions. Our general government is supplying as much of everything needed as the rebel authorities can provide transportation for from this point, and enough, I think, to make our prisoners measurably comfortable, so far as food and clothing are concerned. The Sanitary Commission and Relief Association in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other cities, are also sending forward supplies of food, clothing and medicines. Hence I shall have no need to call on the New York State Agency, as I should certainly do if there was any occasion.

Another letter says:

"The government has sent up rations, blankets and clothing, including caps, coats, pants, shoes, socks, drawers, and shirts. The Sanitary Commission is sending pillows, ticks, towels, clothing, dried fruits, &c., beef stock and sugar. There should be sent vegetables and pickles. This can be done best from Baltimore. There are not less than two thousand New York officers among the prisoners. I think the best way will be to send one thousand dollars to Baltimore, to be used in the purchase of potatoes, cabbages, onions, pickles, blacking and brushes, and fine combs. If money is sent to the men they cannot use it themselves. They have to send out by the guards to buy things, and the guards make just such returns as they please. It is not recommended to send money to the men."

"The first relief got through was from the Sanitary Commission, consisting of fifteen large boxes of clothing and provisions. This was early in November. The Government are now supplying the regular allowance of rations, clothing, &c."

THE FIELD RELIEF CORPS.

Mr. Johnson, the superintendent of the Field Relief Corps, writes:

The movements of the Field Relief Corps, Army of the Potomac, during the months of October and November, have been varied and interesting, embracing those operations of the army which began with the evacuation of Culpepper, and terminated in its retreat from near Orange Court House; of the military incidents during the retreat to Centreville; the subsequent advance to Warrenton; the attack at Rappahannock Station, and the recent advance across the Rapidan, by the lower fords; the papers of the day give full accounts. The Field Relief Corps during these movements has successfully carried out its purposes.

Attached to the various corps ambulance trains, it has been exposed to the dangers of the battle-field, but has escaped any losses from the bullets of the enemy, while its stores were freely offered to the unfortunate sufferers. This was particularly the case with the second corps agent, when the engagement near Auburn Mills, and later on the same day at Bristow Station, hazarded for a time the safety of the army. The hurried evacuation of Culpepper was accomplished without loss of importance, the stock in depot being placed in cars during the early hours of morning, and very shortly before the place was occupied by the rebel forces. During the various halts of the army and the establishment of hospitals in the field, our stock has been eagerly sought for and generally distributed with judgment, to good effect. Personal intercourse of agents with the sick in hospital and with the men in camp, can scarcely be carried to too great an extent. The more intimately we know the wants of the sick and of the healthy, the better qualified we become to apply remedies in the one case, and preventives in the other. The series of questions to which the Chief Inspector has urgently called the attention of the agents, is well designed to promote the good of the soldier. During the late campaign, the troops who were exposed to great inclemency of wet and cold weather, to rapid and fatiguing marches, bore up bravely against their trials, but will probably, after the excitement has passed away, suffer in sickness. The substitution of fresh beef, driven with the army and slaughtered, frequently relieved the soldiers from carrying considerable weight of pork, and furnished a much more desirable article of food. I regret to report that Geo. Longley, driver in the 5th corps, was captured with his wagon during the recent advance. The latter was recaptured, but Longley remains a prisoner, in whose behalf I ask the aid of our officers to effect his release.

THE LODGES AT WASHINGTON.

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
Adams' House, 244 F Street,
Washington, D. C., *Nov. 30th*, 1863.

F. N. Knapp,
Special Relief Agent, San. Com.:

Dear Sir—I have the honor to report the amount of labor performed at Lodge No. 4, Sanitary Commission, for the month ending Monday, November 30th, 1863. The first part of the month, the work was much diminished in consequence of the limited number of discharged men, but since the middle of the month we have been very busy. A large number of the men lately discharged are "conscript substitutes." The applications for assistance from females have been less than usual, but applications for assistance from men on furlough have been numerous.

Amount of money collected	$13,820.64
No. of cases in which pay was collected	138
No. of applications for assistance in collection of pay during month	136
No. of cases where papers were returned	2
Amount forwarded by draft	$3,318.22
No. of drafts sent	31
No. of letters written	218
Cash received during month	$182.41
Expenditures	$152.70
Balance on hand	$29.71

Of the amount expended $65.55 has been loaned to persons with a promise to refund, $9.75 incidental expenses and $77.40 expended on special relief cases. $11.65 has been returned for money advanced prior to and during the present month.

There has been an increased number of applications for meals from members of the invalid corps who were down in the city on passes, but as there was evidence that some of the men were clearly *not* entitled to be admitted, the rule has been laid down to refuse them admittance, with exception of cases where there is *evident* need.

No. of meals furnished	7,805
No. of lodgings furnished	1,099

The work of procuring certificates for back pay, under charge of Mr. Brown, has been continued, with *some* increased help, although from the short space of time the new men have been engaged upon it, *their* work would not forward matters very much. Mr. Roys was assigned to duty November 14th, and relieved November 30th. F. X. Byrne was assigned to

duty in the office November 19th, and to duty with Mr. Brown November 27th. Mr. Brown will report to you the amount of work done by him in detail, as by your order. The Special Relief Office has been papered this month, and with a trifling cost the comfort and cheerfulness of the same is much increased.

It is desirable to have the inmates of the "clothing establishment," in the rear of the buildings occupied by the Commission, removed, with their goods which they have for sale. How this is to be done I am unable to suggest, not knowing how much authority the Commission has over the grounds, or how far down the line of buildings they have absolute control.

The employees at this Lodge have generally shown themselves ready for all work assigned to them, and have done all in their power to forward the same. We have been called upon only once during the month for special help. On Sunday, November 22d, went to Alexandria with Mr. Kane and two colored men, and came up from there along with sick men on the cars, remained at Maryland Avenue Lodge until 2.30 A. M., and assisted in supplying at least 350 men with coffee, bread, &c. Hoping the management of affairs during the past month may meet with your approval, and asking as a special favor to all the employees of of this lodge, that Mr. Abbott may be speedily restored to the command,

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

WM. K. NEAL.

HOMAGE DUE FROM MARS TO HYGEIA.

In July, 1861, orders were issued for the erection of barracks in or near a certain city in a Northern State, to be used as a rendezvous for a new regiment of volunteers. Adjoining the city was a beautiful grove, a favorite place for occasional resort from the dust and heat of the town. It was desired that the barracks be erected in the grove. An Inspector of the Sanitary Commission endeavored to show the unfitness of the site, urging reasons, the force of which afterward became sufficiently manifest. The barracks were erected on this thickly shaded plain. These were used some two months by this regiment, and it was then sent to meet in the field the enemy which its mission was to conquer. But before leaving its camp of rendezvous it had already met another foe, against which bayonets, bravery and patriotism were powerless. A protracted rainy season filled the camp with water and mud; for weeks the reeking atmosphere was saturated with poisonous exhalations; and before they had seen the faces of those in arms against their country, scores of brave men had yielded to an adversary which they never should have met. *Twenty per cent.* of the effective force of that regiment was *unnecessarily* lost before it had entered the field for active operations, and *nearly thirty-five per cent. before it had exchanged shots with the enemy.*

This is given not as a solitary, but as a representative case. Other facts were given in the last number of the *Reporter*, and we would commend a reperusal of the article from the *American Medical Times* to those who are influential in the formation of public opinion, especially to such as reside in the vicinity of recruiting stations. A repetition of the miserable blunders of the past two and a half years would now be a crime offensive to God and disgraceful to man. Medical men in civil life owe it to the service and to humanity, that the best lights of sanitary science be made available in the preservation of the lives and health of those who are to fill up the depleted ranks of the old regiments, or form the complement of the new.

Surgeon-General Hammond, in his great work on "Military Hygiene," gives us some figures relating to the money value of a soldier: "To put a soldier into the field costs the Government nearly four hundred dollars; should he die or become disabled in the service a pension is given." The cash value, then, of a regiment of a thousand men, before it has met the enemy, is nearly half a million of dollars, and by the same arithmetical calculation, each life in that regiment is worth more than one thousand dollars to the service, if that life can be preserved in full health and vigor to the end of the war, or until lost in battle. "Looking at the matter, therefore, in a financial point of view, we perceive that it is a subject of serious importance that every means should be taken to preserve the lives and health of those who come forward to fight the battles of their country."

But the money value is the lowest value we can attach to the life of a soldier. Each member of a regiment is *a citizen* of the country; A MAN, occupying a place in the social organism which no other can fill. The proper care of these patriots becomes of incalculable importance, then, in view of the fact that by far the greatest portion of the loss to the service by death or sickness arises from causes which could and should have been prevented, by proper and constant attention to the conditions of health during the first few months of the existence of the military organization.

The attention of the Sanitary Commission was

early directed to barracks and camps of rendezvous as to fruitful sources of evil, and it has constantly called the attention of the authorities to the fact. It has distributed in such manner as seemed to be most promising of good results, several hundred thousand pages of documents upon sanitary science, and tending to the prevention of such diseases as soldiers are most liable to in camp, field and hospital. It is always happy to furnish such documents gratuitously to medical and military men in charge of the lives and health of troops.

Human life is of priceless value; and in view of the fact that Sanitary Science bears the same relationship to so-called Sanitary Stores* that prevention bears to *attempts* at cure, we commend this subject to every well wisher of the soldier and of the country. We appeal to all whose voices are potential, and can reach those who are now crossing, or are about to cross, the perilous gulf which separates the civil from the military life, to give the note of warning, and point out how the danger may be escaped.

AN OFFICER'S OPINION, AND WHAT BECAME OF IT.

"The Sanitary Commission is a Humbug. It has done no good, and never will."—This was the remark of an officer lately who had been in this hospital for some time sick; and perhaps I can serve the cause of humanity and the country in no better way than by repeating the conversation which then took place, and give the results:—"You think so, do you? What was the matter with you when you came here?" "Diarrhœa and scurvy." "What was the first thing done for you when you came here?" "I had a warm bath and clean clothes; but what has that to do with the Sanitary Commission?" "Never mind, we will see. Are you better than when you came in?" "Yes, nearly well." "What has cured you?" "The vegetables, I believe." "Do you know where the vegetables came from?" "No." "You were in the Commissary-room to-day, and admired the stock of vegetables, pickles, cabbage, cans of fruit, bottles of wine, and cordials, did you not?" "Yes, but why?" "No matter why. I want you to look at the shirt and drawers you have on, then go through the hospital and see one hundred and twenty-two men with clean shirts, drawers, sheets and pillow cases; then go into the linen-room and I will show you enough more to change every man and every bed, and the whole of it came from the Sanitary Commission. All the pickled cabbage you and the rest have eaten have come from them, and they are ready to furnish as much more if I need it; and yet you say, without knowing what you talk about, that the Sanitary Commission is a humbug! If it had not been for this Commission, you and the rest of those in this hospital from the Army of the Potomac, who have been suffering from scurvy, would be as badly off as you were when you came in. You have abused an association which has put comfortable clothes upon you, has provided the vegetables you needed to cure you, and has done the same for thousands besides you." "Doctor, I never knew these things before. I have heard that all they did was for the benefit of the surgeons about the hospitals; but, to tell you the truth, I never inquired. There is an Aid Society in our place, and I have discouraged my sisters from having anything to do with it; but no such word shall come from me again."

He was cured of his folly, humbled and shamed, for it was at the dinner-table that the conversation took place, and I was glad that others were present. This is not a solitary instance. I have had to contend with just such *perverse ignorance* for the past two years; but this was so striking a case that I thought it might do good to furnish it for publication in the *Reporter*. The Commission has aided and blessed me in my work ever since November, 1861; and I say again, as I have said before, "that no instrumentality within my knowledge has done so much real good for the service as the United States Sanitary Commission."

Benj. Woodward,
Surgeon 22d Ill. Vol., in charge.
U. S. General Hospital,
Tallahoma, Tenn., *Nov.* 17, 1863.

MISS NIGHTINGALE ON THE SANITARY STATE OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.

When the Royal Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army in India disclosed in their Report the painful fact that in India a regiment of 1,000 men loses by death 100 men every twenty months, exclusive of those who fall in the field, a feeling of horror pervaded all classes. We knew, however, that in busy, bustling England, emotions, even the strongest, are apt to fade away rapidly unless kept alive by continual reminders. It is, therefore, with thankfulness that we welcome the publication of the present pamphlet.

Miss Nightingale's observations may be regarded as a combination of an epitome of and marginal notes on the Report of the Royal Commission, and will be read by many who shrink from the ponderous dullness of a blue-book. The diseases among the troops in India are, she justly remarks, camp diseases; and the causes of them are—1. Bad water; 2. Bad drainage; 3. Filthy bazaars; 4. want of ventilation; 5. surface overcrowding in barrack-huts and sick-wards. To begin with the first, Miss Nightingale exhibits a most melancholy picture of the supply of that great necessary, water. It is no fancy sketch, and is thoroughly borne out both by the "Stational Reports" and the experience of those who have served in India. At Hyderabad (in Scinde) the water swarms with animal life.

That terrible infliction, the "guinea-

* Many of these are "Sanitary" that is promotive of health, or otherwise, according to the use that is made of them.

worm"—a thread-like animal about a yard in length, which gets into the legs and is wound out an inch or so daily—is one of the consequences of the bad water in Scinde. "At Bangalore, the Ulsoor tank, used for drinking, is the outlet of the whole drainage of a most filthy bazaar (125,000 inhabitants), for that of our cavalry, infantry and horse artillery barracks, and of the greater portion of the station." The Commander-in-Chief testifies that he has for the last four years and a half frequently brought the subject to the notice of the authorities, but without result. At Secunderabad a gallon of water contains 119 grains of solid matter and 30 grains of organic matter; while at Surat "no one thinks of drinking the camp water." "At Asseerghur the same tank is used for drinking and bathing."

Throughout India the troops are supplied with water by water carriers, (bheestees,) who get it wherever they choose, and carry it to the barracks in leathern skins, which are never cleaned out. No systematic attempt is ever made to filter the drinking-water, though such is occasionally done by the soldiers, of their own accord, or sometimes under the direction of the few regimental officers who are sufficiently enlightened to perceive the necessity of the act. Now for this neglect there is no excuse, as the process can be effected at the slightest possible expenditure of time, trouble and money. The more we reflect on the question of drinking water, the more we are struck with its great importance, and the culpable apathy of those who are responsible for the terrible state of things disclosed by the Report. The impurity of the water consumed by the troops is of itself quite sufficient, and more than sufficient to account for the excessive mortality we have alluded to above. As a matter of direct economy even, money would be saved to Government by substituting for the uncontrolled water-carriers, with their dirty leathern bags—or as Miss Nightingale quaintly calls them, "water-pipes with a will,"—a system of filtered water, conveyed by pipes. In Fort William, Calcutta, 134*l.* per annum is paid to the water-carriers, with the most pernicious results. The argument is powerfully stated by Miss Nightingale in the following passage:—"The reason usually assigned for employing these human water-pipes in barracks, is, that they are indispensable on field service. But so are tents; and yet nobody proposes to barrack men in tents in time of peace."

The subject of cleanliness in so hot and dusty a country as India is scarcely less important than that of drinking water; and yet it will scarcely be believed that as yet the matter has been almost entirely neglected. Instead of offering every inducement to the soldier to keep the pores of his skin free from impurity, he is left almost entirely to his own resources in this particular; or rather, from the deficiency of accommodation provided, he is positively discouraged from keeping himself clean. Fully to appreciate the extent of the evil, it must be borne in mind that even during quiescence, the skin is, in the hot season, in a state of active perspiration throughout almost the whole of the twenty-four hours; while even in the cool season the slightest exertion produces profuse perspiration. In the dry season, moreover, the soldier often arrives in barracks at the end of a march, or after a field-day, completely coated with the fine white dust which penetrates everywhere. There are a few exceptions to these strictures, but so few are they as not to affect the general correctness of our statement. In one or two cases there are plunge-baths, but the stations where, with any regard to privacy and decency, the soldier can enjoy a good comfortable bath, are extremely rare. Even in hospitals, proper accommodation for washing is either very insufficient or altogether deficient.

Bad as is the water supply and washing accommodation, the drainage is even worse; and after reading the Report of the Commission and Miss Nightingale's remarks thereon, our astonishment is excited, not at the amount of mortality, but at the fact that it is not greater. Let Miss Nightingale's facts speak for themselves:

"At the capital of the Bombay Presidency, where civilization has introduced a 'main drain,' two feet square, with 'a flat bottom,' this 'main drain' is a 'great nuisance,' and the 'stench at times scarcely to be endured.' At Fort George, in Bombay, the latrines are not drained except into an open ditch, 'which is always in a foul state.' At Madras, the main drain of the town is eighty yards distant from the European fort; the effluvia from it is very offensive. * * At Bellary there is no drainage, except the fall of the ground."

The following paragraph discloses a state of affairs which is a disgrace to the nineteenth century, and an argument unworthy of the feeblest intellects, even those belonging to people sunk in the intellectual apathy of India:

"At Secunderabad there is no drainage of any kind. The fluid refuse evaporates or sinks into the subsoil. A nullah, which intersects the cantonment, stinks. The extent of the cantonment is so enormous, that it is said 'to preclude any general surface draining,'—a statement which, if true, would amount to this, that the occupation of ground by human beings must inevitably lead to disease; a statement as applicable, or rather much more applicable to the area of London than to that of Secunderabad, and yet London is drained both on the surface and below it."

Poor humanity, not being of the quality of the Olympian gods and goddesses, imperatively makes demands, for the satisfaction of which no arrangement, or worse than none is made. But these details are too horrible for us. Let us pass to other matters.

The ventilation of barracks is clearly a most important point, and one which in times past the authorities have shamefully neglected. Miss Nightingale tells us that a similar carelessness prevails in India. Here she somewhat exaggerates. The barracks in India are—whatever their other defects—as a rule, large, airy and well ventilated. She relies for the truth of her statements on the Station Reports given by medical officers. It must, however, be remembered that army surgeons are now, almost for the the first time—alas! that it should be so—consulted about other matters than pills and lancets. Their responsibility is no longer limited to doing the best they can for men actually sick; they are expected to pronounce on the best means for keeping them healthy. In short, their functions are preventive as well as curative, instead of, as formerly, purely curative. From this, perhaps, arises a little natural proneness to exaggeration, an insensible tendency to raise their profession at the expense of that impalpable load-bearer, Government. We must not in this be understood as depreciating their zeal, talent and conscientiousness, or undervaluing the importance of their object; but it is well known that reform long delayed is somewhat indiscriminate in its attacks, and often seeks to cut away some of the sound timber together with that which is unmistakably rotten. In her remarks on "surface over-crowding," Miss Nightingale is more accurate. The number of cubic feet of air allotted to each soldier in India is generally ample, but the quantity is too often made up of an undue proportion of height. The flooring of the barracks is also extremely objectionable, being frequently either the ground bricked over or plastered with cow-dung. Dirt and vermin are the natural consequences of such a construction. Miss Nightingale's words in this place state the whole question of barrack accommodation so tersely and well, that we cannot refrain from extracting the passage: "To sum up: it is not economical for Government to make the soldiers as uncivilized as possible. Nature sends in her bill—a bill which has always to be paid—and at a pretty high rate of interest, too." Let us add, that if barracks were built on arches, a free current of air would circulate under the building, give facilities for ventilation, and raise the occupants above the miasma which floats upon the surface of the ground during a great portion of the year.

Over-indulgence in intoxicating liquors is the greatest bane of the British army all over the world, but particularly in India, where the circulation certainly does not require to be quickened, nor the action of the liver to be stimulated. We fancy that there is some mistake in the statement extracted from the report by Miss Nightingale, that the allowance of liquor permitted to be bought at the canteen is two drams of spirit, or a quart of porter in the place of each dram. We know that, at all events, in one regiment in the Bengal Presidency, it was understood to be the regulation of the service that one *pint* of porter was the equivalent of one dram of spirit. However that may be, it is certainly very important that the consumption of spirit should be diminished. The question is, would the prohibition to furnish spirits at the canteen produce that effect? Would it not rather lead those men who had a hankering after spirits to a more active endeavor than at present to obtain the vile, poisonous arrack, even now frequently bought from the natives. That is the argument used by those who advocate the sale of spirits at the canteen. There are licensed native stills,—indeed, it would be impossible to prevent distilling did we wish to do so—and who could prevent a native from depositing in some spot which might be agreed upon, the poisonous liquor, which is even now furtively sold to the soldiers? The reason why canteens have been established, was, that the dram-drinker might at all events be controlled, and obtain good arrack. To abolish dram-drinking at once would be impossible, for many men are so wedded, so long accustomed to it, that it has become more of a necessary of life than food. To the most confirmed drinkers the commissariat liquor is not a sufficient stimulus, and they have recourse to a mixture compounded of native arrack, chilli-pepper, and other hot and stimulating ingredients. This stuff, which would take the skin off the throat of an unseasoned man, is not inaptly called "hell-fire." No; dram-drinking cannot be stopped in a day, but it may gradually be extinguished by raising the tone and intelligence of the soldier, and by always substituting beer for rum on the voyage out, and thus preventing him from contracting the habit. Beer or porter is now generally to be met with in sufficient quantity at all stations, and a plentiful supply of excellent malt liquor can be obtained from the various hill breweries. Formerly the bulk, and consequent difficulty of transporting English beer, formed one of the reasons for issuing rum. This is no longer so much the case, though even now the supply of beer sometimes runs short. Let hill beer be used for the future, and all difficulties of this sort will vanish. Certainly the statistics of intemperance demand the serious consideration of the authorities. The average of

habitual drunkards in some European regiments is not less than 15 per cent. Again, it is said, "(at Hazareebaugh,) 'soldiers as a body temperate,' and one-third of disease and one-half of crime produced directly or indirectly by drink." Thirty-six cases of delirium tremens, five of which were fatal, occurred at Allahabad in one year; while at Chunar "the deaths were just twice, the crimes just ten times, as many among the intemperate as among the temperate." Miss Nightingale tells us, that "in Burmah, when malt liquor could be had, health always improved. A marked change for the worse took place when spirit was issued instead."

Among other causes of disease in India, Miss Nightingale cites the cooking, which, she complains, is conducted without European appliances. Be that as it may, the result is excellent, and the soldiers take very good care to keep the cooks up to their work. As regards the question of an excess of animal food, there can be no doubt that the soldier in India does eat too much meat during the hot weather, and that extra bread and vegetables might be with advantage substituted. At present, the potatoes are often bad. This need not be the case: in the hills some of the best potatoes in the world are grown.

We now come to a cause of disease and demoralization which yields to none in importance; and we are glad to find Miss Nightingale dwell on it with earnestness. This is, "want of occupation and exercise." During the hot season the soldier's life is positively a burden to him. Confined to his barrack-room from about 7 A.M. till 5 or 6 P.M., during that interval he has positively nothing in the world to do except smoke, lounge on his bed, sleep, grumble, play at cards, and read. Cards are, of course, not allowed; but under the circumstances of a dearth of occupation, their use is often winked at, or, where not, the prohibition is evaded. Everything which elsewhere he does for himself is in India carefully done for him. Native servants clean his room, cook his dinner, fetch his water, wash his clothes, and, in some instances, even clean his boots. Now, some of these things he could very well do for himself, at a great saving to Government, and a considerable physical and moral gain to himself. Want of occupation not only directly produces evil effects on the health of the man, but also indirectly, by inducing despondency, predisposes to disease. Now, this may be easily remedied. Covered gymnastic courts, covered fives courts, theatres, covered skittle-alleys and rifle galleries would afford attractive and wholesome occupation, which would be eagerly taken advantage of by the soldiers. The construction of such buildings would, no doubt, cost money; but that money would be an excellent investment, for it would materially diminish the annual cost of replacing soldiers dead or invalided.

The establishment of regimental workshops is also a very desirable thing, and very properly urged by Miss Nightingale, as well as in the Station Reports. We think, however, that she pushes the matter rather too far, and that anything more than earnest encouragement and small loans would not be advantageous. It must be remembered that a complete and organized system of workshops is surrounded with practical difficulties; and it must never be forgotten that anything of this sort must be viewed as secondary to the principal object of making the men efficient soldiers. Therefore we would recommend that any improvement in this respect should originate with the men, be conducted regimentally, and be merely fostered by the authorities. Were men to be struck off duty for the sake of pursuing their trades, the military work, such as guards, &c., would fall the more heavily on their comrades. A man, also, who was an industrious, skilled artisan would not long remain in the army, and would possess little zeal for his profession while he remained in it.

Of course, in the matter of hospitals, Miss Nightingale may justly claim to be an authority; consequently, that part of the book before us which relates to them, will be read with attentive interest. The state of things which she discloses is sad indeed. She says they "are, as a rule, exceedingly bad as regards points considered essential to health and administration, even in this country. What would be, *e. g.*, thought in this country of an hospital without a water-closet, or bath, or means of personal cleanliness? Such an hospital would be considered as a mere makeshift, till accommodation fitter for recovery could be provided."

These are the chief objections made to the hospital accommodation and system in India; but there are other minor points which we have not here room to touch on. At present, in severe cases of sickness, a man's comrade is told off to attend him. This we object to; but not for the same reason as Miss Nightingale. She asserts that in such a case the nursing is bad; drink is introduced, and hospital discipline suffers. Now, under the supervision of the doctor's apothecary and hospital sergeant, we do not see how such can be the case. As to nursing, a comrade, being the patient's friend, is the kindest attendant he can have, and any unskilfulness can be easily remedied and removed by the instructions of the hospital establishment. The true objection is, that it diminishes the effective strength of the regiment, and takes the men from their proper work. Miss Nightingale, in speaking of the native nurses, alludes to the difficulty the patients and nurses experience in communicating

with each other, and says that the native makes "much more effort to learn the Briton's language, than does the Briton to learn the native's." Such may be true in Bombay and Madras. We believe it is; but in Bengal it is not the case. It has lately been urged that the number of hill-stations should be increased to such an extent that a large portion of the army might be quartered in them by rotation. At present, we believe that in the Bengal Presidency only two regiments at a time can be so located, the remaining hill-stations being occupied by invalids. The Royal Commission recommend that one-third of the European army should be kept in the hills. Miss Nightingale's words on this subject deserve to be quoted:

"It strikes one, however, that it would not be safe to depend for improvement of the health of troops solely on occupying hill-stations, with such an overwhelming amount of evidence as to the bad sanitary state of the stations on the plains, and even of not a few of the hill-stations themselves, such as Darjeeling, Landour, Nynee Tall."

Sir Ranald Martin thinks that the best elevations have yet to be determined; but he is of opinion that elevations of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the level of the sea will be found the best. Those at present occupied are wet and changeable in climate. The change from the plains, moreover, is too sudden for many constitutions. There can, however, be no doubt that it is very desirable to place a large portion of the army in such high stations as possess speedy communication with the important strategic positions in the plains. At the same time, too much must not be expected from the measure; the hills are preventive, but only very partially curative.

What has been said concerning barracks may, in a wider and fuller sense, be repeated of native towns, with whose sanitary state that of our troops is also connected, though in a less degree, because the barracks are generally at some distance from the towns. We have no room to say more than that small-pox and cholera are seldom absent from those of any size, and that the absence of all drainage and sanative arrangements is most disgraceful to our century of absolute rule. The condition of married soldiers is much better in India than at home, but the accommodation granted them is to confined for health. The plains during the hot season are not places where women and children can, generally speaking, flourish. The large mortality among them, compared with that among the soldiers, proves one or both of these facts. Miss Nightingale complains, and with justice, that when a regiment is sent on service, the women and children are not taken proper care of. It is impossible to exaggerate the evils and immorality which occur under the present system. She suggests that a picked married officer should be detailed to take charge of the families of those on service, and that arrangements should be made for a regular remittance of pay. To this there can be no possible objection; indeed, to neglect it after the experience of the past, would be criminal.

We will not follow Miss Nightingale into considerations of the consequences of a vicious course of life in the Indian regiments. The Commission which invited her observations on that as on other delicate questions, probably thought she had no more sex than an angel. If so, she seems to us to have accepted the repulsive office with the sigh of a mortal woman, and to have performed it with the courage of an immortal angel.—*Athenæum.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

"The very first canon of nursing, the first and last thing upon which a nurse's attention must be fixed, the first essential to a patient, without which all the rest you can do for him is as nothing, with which I had almost said you may leave all the rest alone, is this: To KEEP THE AIR HE BREATHES AS PURE AS THE EXTERNAL AIR, WITHOUT CHILLING HIM. Yet what is so little attended to? Even where it is thought of at all, the most extraordinary misconceptions reign about it. Even in admitting air into the patient's room or ward, few people ever think where that air comes from. It may come from a corridor into which other wards are ventilated; from a hall, always unaired, always full of the fumes of gas, dinner, of various kinds of mustiness; from an under-ground kitchen, sink, washhouse, water-closet, or even, as I myself have had sorrowful experience, from open sewers loaded with filth; and with this the patient's room or ward is aired, as it is called—poisoned, it should rather be said. Always air from the air without, and that, too, through those windows, through which the air comes freshest. From a closed court, especially if the wind do not blow that way, air may come as stagnant as any from a hall or corridor.

"With a proper supply of windows, and a proper supply of fuel in open fire places, fresh air is comparatively easy to secure when your patient or patients are in bed. Never be afraid of open windows then. People don't catch cold in bed. This is a popular fallacy. With proper bed-clothes and hot bottles, if necessary, you can always keep a patient warm in bed, and well ventilate him at the same time.

"But a careless nurse, be her rank and education what it may, will stop up every cranny, and keep a hot-house heat when her patient is in bed,—and, if he is able to get up, leave him comparatively unpro-

tected. The time when people take cold (and there are many ways of taking cold, besides a cold in the nose,) is when they first get up after the two-fold exhaustion of dressing and of having had the skin relaxed by many hours, perhaps days, in bed, and thereby rendered more incapable of re-action. Then the same temperature which refreshes the patient in bed may destroy the patient just risen. And common sense will point out, that, while purity of air is essential, a temperature must be secured which shall not chill the patient. Otherwise the best that can be expected will be a feverish re-action.

"To have the air within as pure as the air without, it is not necessary, as often appears to be thought, to make it as cold." —*Mrs. Nightingale.*

PENSIONS, FURLOUGHS, AND BACK PAY.

Under the act of Congress approved July 14, 1862, pensions are granted to the following classes of persons:

I. Invalids, disabled since March 4, 1861, in the military or naval service of the United States, in the line of duty.

II. Widows of officers, soldiers, or seamen dying of wounds received or of disease contracted in the military or naval service, as above.

III. Children, under sixteen years of age, of such deceased persons, if there is no widow surviving, or from the time of the widow's remarriage.

IV. Mothers (who have no husband living) of officers, soldiers or seamen, deceased as aforesaid, provided the latter have left neither widow nor children under sixteen years of age; and provided, also, that the mother was dependent, wholly or in part, upon the deceased for support.

V. Sisters, under sixteen years of age, of such deceased persons, dependent on the latter, wholly or in part, for support, provided there are no rightful claimants of either of the three last preceding classes.

The rates of pension to the several classes and grades are distinctly set forth in the first section of the act, viz.:

Lieutenant Colonel, and all officers of a higher rank, thirty dollars per month; Major, twenty-five dollars per month; Captain, twenty dollars per month; First Lieutenant, seventeen dollars per month; Second Lieutenant, fifteen dollars per month; and non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, eight dollars per month. Only one full pension in any case will be allowed to the relatives of a deceased officer, soldier or seaman, and in order of precedence as set forth above. When more than one minor child or orphan sister thus becomes entitled to pension, the same must be divided equally between them.

Invalid pensions, under this law, will commence from the date of the pensioner's discharge from service, provided application is made within one year thereafter. If the claim is not made until a later date, the pension will commence from the time of the application, and will continue for life, or until he is re-examined.

Pensions of widows and minors will commence from the death of the officer, soldier, or seaman on whose service the claim is based, and continue for widows and dependent mothers until remarriage, and for children until they arrive at the age of sixteen years.

Declarations are required to be made before a court of record, or before some officer of such court duly authorized to administer oaths, and having custody of its seal. *Testimony* may be taken before a justice of the peace, or other officer having like authority to administer oaths, but in no case will any evidence be received that is verified before an officer who is concerned prosecuting the claim, or has a manifest interest therein.

In support of the allegations made in the claimant's declaration, testimony will be required in accordance with the following rules:

1. The claimant's identity must be proved by two witnesses, certified by a judicial officer to be respectable and credible, who are present and witness the signature of the declarant, and who state, upon oath or affirmation, their belief, either from personal acquaintance or for other reasons given, that he or she is the identical person he or she represents himself or herself to be.

2. Every applicant for an invalid pension must, if in his power, produce the certificate of the captain, or of some other commissioned officer under whom he served, distinctly stating the time and place of the said applicant's having been wounded or otherwise disabled, and the nature of the disability; and that the said disability arose while he was in the service of the United States and in the line of his duty.

3. If it be impracticable to obtain such certificate, by reason of the death or removal of said officers, it must be so stated under oath by the applicant, and his averment of the fact proved by persons of known respectability, who must state particularly all the knowledge they may possess in relation to such death or removal; then secondary evidence can be received. In such case the applicant must produce the testimony of at least two credible witnesses, (who were in a condition to know the facts about which they testify,) whose good character must be vouched for by a judicial officer, or by some one known to the department. The witnesses must give a minute narrative of the facts in relation to the matter, and must show how they obtained a knowledge of the facts to which they testify.

4. The surgeon's certificate for discharge should show the character and degree of the claimant's disability; but when that is wanting, and when the certificate of an army surgeon is not obtainable, the certificate of two respectable civil surgeons will be received. These surgeons must give in their certificate a particular description of the wound, injury, or disease, and specify how and in what manner his present condition and disability are connected therewith. The degree of disability for obtaining subsistence by manual labor must also be stated.

5. The habits of the applicant, and his occupation since he left the service, must be shown by at least two credible witnesses.

If the applicant claims a pension as the

widow of a deceased officer or soldier, she must prove the legality of her marriage, the death of her husband, and that she is still a widow. She must also furnish the names and ages of her children under sixteen years of age at her husband's decease, and the place of their residence. On a subsequent marriage her pension will cease, and the minor child or children of the deceased officer or soldier, if any be living, under the age of sixteen years, will be entitled to the same in her stead, from the date of such marriage.

Proof of the marriage of the parents and of the age of claimants will, in like manner, be required in all applications in behalf of minor children.

The legality of the marriage may be ascertained by the certificate of the clergyman who joined them in wedlock, or by the testimony of respectable persons having knowledge of the fact, in default of record evidence. The ages and number of children may be ascertained by the deposition of the mother, accompanied by the testimony of respectable persons having knowledge of them, or by transcripts from the parish or town registers duly authenticated.

Similar proof will be required of the marriage of the claimant, if the mother of a deceased officer or soldier, and that she remains a widow.

If the claimant be a dependent sister, like proof will be required of the marriage of her parents, and of her relationship to the deceased.

Guardians of minor claimants must, in all cases, produce evidence of their authority as such, under the seal of the court from which their appointment is obtained.

Applicants of the last four classes above given, who have in any manner aided or abetted the rebellion against the United States government, are not entitled to the benefits of this act.

Attorneys for claimants must have proper authority from those in whose behalf they appear. Powers of attorney must be signed in the presence of two witnesses, and acknowledged before a duly qualified officer, whose official character must be certified under seal.

In all cases the post-office address of the claimant must be distinctly stated.

Applications under this act will be numbered and acknowledged, to be acted on in their turn. In filing additional evidence, correspondents should always give the number of the claim as well as the name of the claimant.

Applications for pensions are made to *Hon. Joseph H. Burnett*, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C. and any claimant addressing him in person or by letter, will receive the necessary printed forms and instructions. Applications are commonly made through attorneys, or the agencies of the Sanitary Commission in Washington and Philadelphia, or other local agencies. The agency in Washington at 389 H Street is intended for applicants of every class, and from all parts of the country, and does all the business necessary to secure a claim in as prompt a manner as is possible, *without any charge* to the claimants. Persons wishing their claims to be prosecuted by this office, should address Pension Agency of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C., and everything will be done for them in the promptest manner which the nature of their evidence permits.

Claimants who have recourse to local attorneys ought to be sure that they are dealing with men of known fidelity and honor. The fees of agents and attorneys are fixed by law, and are as follows:

"For making out and causing to be duly executed a declaration by the applicant, with the necessary affidavits, and forwarding the same to the pension office with the requisite correspondence, five dollars. In cases whenever additional testimony is required by the Commissioner of Pensions, for each affidavit so required and executed and forwarded, (except the affidavits of Surgeons, for which such agents and attorneys shall not be entitled to any fees,) one dollar and fifty cents," (see Sec. 6, Oct. to Gen'l. Pensions of July-14, 1862.) The 7th Section of said act prescribes a penalty for illegal fees, and is in these words, viz.: "That any agent or attorney who shall, directly or *indirectly*, demand or receive any greater compensation for his services under this act than is prescribed in the preceding section of this act, or who shall contract or agree to prosecute any claim for a pension, bounty, or other allowance under this act, on condition that he shall receive a per centum upon, or any portion of the amount of such claim, or who shall wrongfully withhold from a pensioner or other claimant the whole or any part of the pension or claim allowed and due to each pensioner or claimant, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall for every such offence be fined not exceeding three hundred dollars, or imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding two years, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. The requirements of the law are often evaded notwithstanding the heavy penalties, and will probably continue to be evaded so long as invalids and other claimants are simple enough to put their trust in total strangers, of whose integrity and competency they have no knowledge.

FURLOUGHS.

Applications for Furloughs should be made to the surgeon of the regiment or hospital. If sent to the Surgeon-General or War Department, or elsewhere, it is immediately referred to the surgeon in charge.

The limitations to granting Furloughs are very stringent.

1st. None are given for any other cause than sickness or wounds.

2d. In disability arising from sickness, the surgeon's certificate must show that the man cannot reasonably be expected to recover in General Hospital.

3d. If in General Hospital, the certificate must be approved by the Medical Director.

4. If in Regimental Hospital, certificate must be approved by Regimental, Brigade, Division, and Corps Commanders, as well as by the Medical Director.

BACK PAY.

Our agent reports:

The following statement shows what has been done during the month of November in procuring certificates for the back pay of invalid soldiers in the Hospitals of Washington, with the exception of the work at the Columbian Hospital, which cannot be shown till I get a return of the list of certificates sent there, with the proper endorsement thereon.

Whole number of cases taken in Nov.....	128
Number of cases completed by delivery of certificates,	47
" " by securing pay in full	17
" " No. certificates granted	10
Total number of cases complete.....	74

Amount represented by the complete certificates, $2813.82. Number of letters written during the month, 51.

The first half of the month was spent in getting through some "tough cases" which had lain over from the previous month.

The month of November not being a muster month, there has been no necessity for completing the cases taken, and consequently the number of completed cases do not represent the entire work of the month.

There have been some applications by letter, for assistance in collecting back pay, by soldiers outside of this department.

Procured a certificate for over four months' pay, for a soldier in McDougal Hospital, Fort Schuyler, N. Y. I have assisted several cases of special hardship in the Invalid Corps. One man came to me having *eighteen months'* back pay due, and as he told me of his service during this period, and of his poor old father and mother at home, writing to him for the assistance which he was unable to render, *wept* at the injustice of the regulation, which, while it compelled him to render service, still failed to make provision for his pay. I procured him a certificate with considerable trouble, and he went on his way rejoicing, The Hospitals represented in the work of the past month are Mt. Pleasant, Carver, Columbian, Des Marres, Armory Square, Douglas, Stanton, Harewood, Convalescent Camp, and McDougal, N. Y. I am happy to say that arrangements have been made at the Paymaster-General's office by which those in the Invalid Corps will soon have their accounts settled. The work is now being systematically prosecuted. It is to be hoped that provision will soon be made for the prompt payment of all soldiers in the army.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION. A Sketch of its Purposes and its Work. Compiled from documents and private papers. Published by permission.

This book contains a rapid but accurate account of the Sanitary Commission, of its organization, of its branches, of its department of inspection, of its fields of work, namely: 1st. General relief in the armies of Virginia, in the armies of the West, in the armies of the Gulf and Atlantic coast. 2d. Special relief in the Homes, Lodges, &c., &c., and the Hospital Directory. It is written and published for the benefit of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

All persons desirous of knowing the truth about the Sanitary Commission are requested to read it.

All persons desirous of aiding the Sanitary Commission are requested to buy it, for the entire profits of the book will be given to the Treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

Price 75 cents. For sale by Messrs. Little & Brown, Publishers, Boston, Mass. Orders can be sent by mail. The book will be ready for issue December 18, 1863.

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1*st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.*

2*d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.*

3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

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THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
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A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, andwhere he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
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Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
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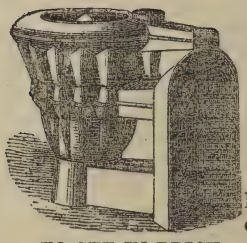
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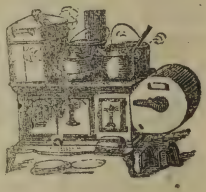


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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, JANUARY 1, 1864. No. 5.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 12,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

THE BATTLE OF CHATTANOOGA.

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
LOUISVILLE, KY., *Dec. 7th*, 1863.

DR. J. F. JENKINS,
General Secretary, New York:

MY DEAR DOCTOR—I have just returned from Chattanooga where I have passed the last two weeks, and from a tour of inspection through the chain of agencies of the Commission which extend from Louisville to that point. It chanced, luckily enough, that I was at Chattanooga through all the exciting scenes of the recent battles, and was able to contribute something to the success which attended the efforts of the Agents of the Commission to relieve the wants and sufferings of the wounded.

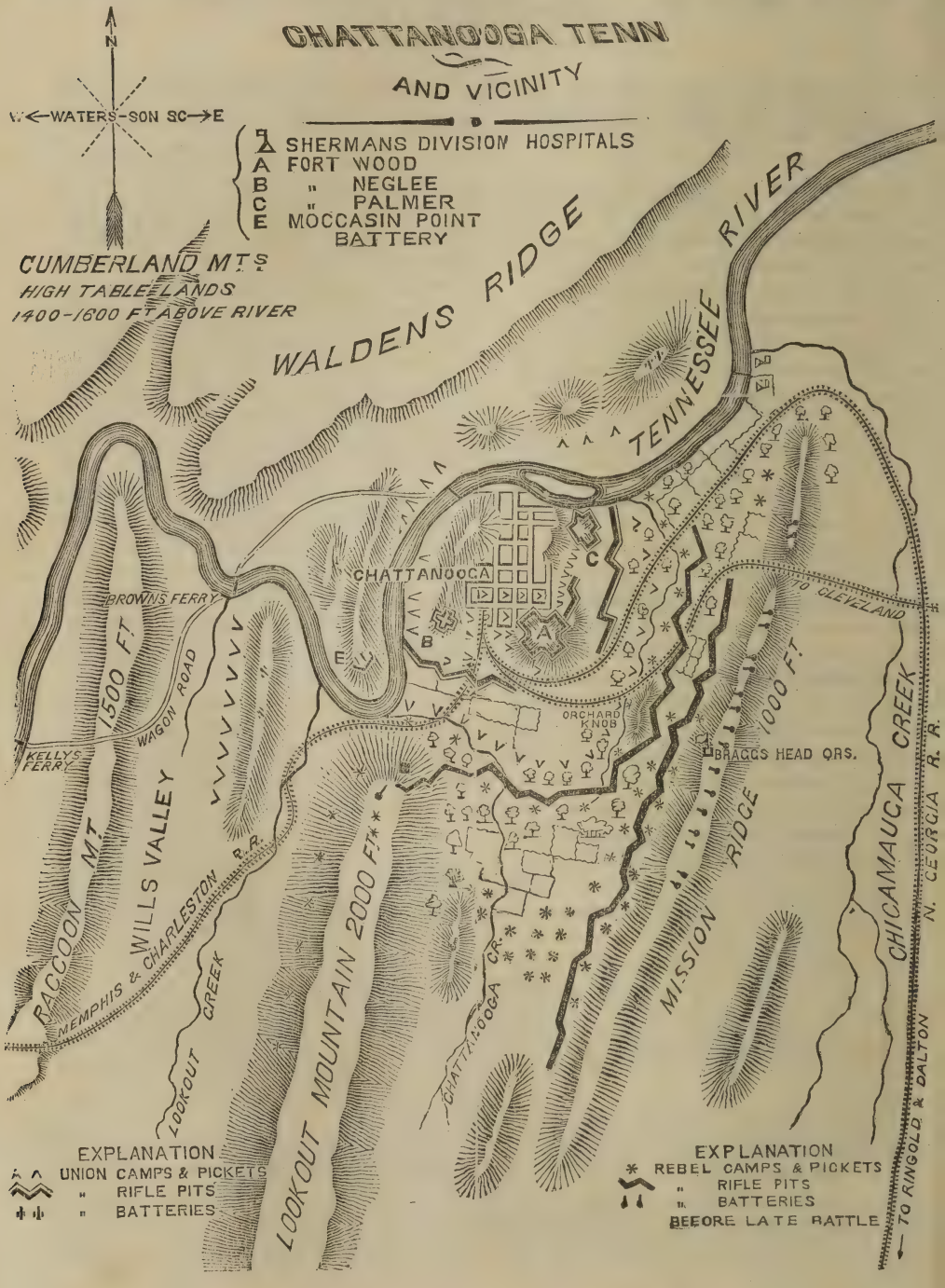
As you are doubtless impatient to learn more than you yet know of the recent important events to which I have referred, and more particularly how fully the Commission has sustained its responsibilities, I hasten to make my report as promptly as possible, and shall make it as full as the great pressure of other duties will permit.

As a pre-requisite to a clear understanding of the military operations, the work of the Commission in and about Chattanooga, and a proper appreciation of the difficulties overcome, it is quite necessary that any one should have gone over the ground himself; and I trust at no distant day you may be able to see with your own eyes some of the enemies, more formidable than rebel hosts, which our noble army have overcome in gaining and holding the positions from which the recent battles were fought and victories won. Until I had been myself to Chattanooga, I had no just appreciation, even with description after description, of the daring and energy which had led General Rosecrans to follow to the very heart of its mountain fastnesses, the retreating army of General Bragg; and after overcoming obstacles at first sight insurmountable, to seize and hold the key to all the lines of communication through this great mountain-labyrinth.

From near Tullahoma to Chattanooga, the whole interval is occupied with mountains of formidable height, terminating laterally in precipitous escapements, separated by deep and narrow valleys, over which even a footman finds his way painful and perilous. In justice to those who planned and executed the military movements prior and preparatory to the late victories, I must say that our people of the Northern States have no just conception of what our army has done and suffered in reaching and holding Chattanooga; and I am sure if all could see what I have seen, of difficulties overcome, hardships endured, and privations so cheerfully suffered, there would be much less than there has been of flippant criticism of the soldiers and the Generals of the Army of the Cumberland.

But if the country is more rough and difficult for military operations than any which our armies have before occupied, it is also picturesque and beautiful beyond anything I have seen in the valley of the

Mississippi, and its climate, judging by the specimens we had of it, is in the highest degree delightful and salubrious. Chattanooga itself must have been, before cursed and blasted by rebellion, one of the most charming places on the continent. It stands in the valley of the Tennessee, shut in on all sides by picturesque mountains, from a thousand to two thousand feet in height, while the town itself is in part



perched on eminences of two or three hundred feet, from which the lowlands, reaching to the base of the mountains, are all clearly visible. When, therefore, I tell you that the last battles were fought in a semicircle around the points of view in the plain or on the mountain side, never more than three miles distant, you will concede that those of us who were present enjoyed an opportunity of witnessing military evolutions—all the varied phases of attack and defence by artillery and infantry, of assault and repulse, of victory and defeat—such as has fallen to the lot of few since Priam watched the struggle between the Greeks and Trojans from the walls of Troy.

Of the battles themselves, I do not now propose to say much, as it will be foreign to my purpose, and they have already been described to you in the letters of Army Correspondents and the admirable telegraphic summary of General Meigs—so fully that it would scarcely be desirable if possible. I, however, enclose a topographical map, which made at Chattanooga, more fully and accurate than any yet published. With this and the descriptions you have at command, you will be able clearly to comprehend the successive steps by which our army secured its final victory, and appreciate, in some measure, the daring bravery of our troops in scaling the heights of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge.

My business, however, is with the noble spirits who *fell* in these glorious charges, and it is with no ordinary satisfaction that I can say that, thanks to the proximity of the battle-fields to suitable receptacles for the wounded, and to the wisdom and energy displayed by the Medical Officers, and last, not least, the prompt and potent aid that the Sanitary Commission with its abundant stores was able to render, none of those cases of neglect or protracted suffering which have been considered as inseparable attendants upon the carnage and confusion of battle-fields, so far as I know, were permitted to occur. I am quite sure that I do not exaggerate when I say that the wounded in no considerable battle since the war began have been so well and promptly cared for; and I can say also with equal confidence, that the aid rendered by the Sanitary Commission has never been more prompt and efficient, more heartily welcomed, or more highly appreciated.

Owing to the difficulties of transportation—difficulties which had prevented the issue of full rations to the army since the battle of Chattanooga—our stock on hand previous to the battle was not as large as I could have wished; but we were accorded even more than our full share of such facilities for transport as were at command of the Quartermaster's Department, and fresh supplies of the most needed articles, including all the staple battle-stores, continued to arrive, so that our warehouse was constantly replenished, and every requisition was promptly filled. Of concentrated beef, milk, stimulants of various kinds, compresses, bandages, dried fruit, vegetables, shirts and drawers, we had a sufficient supply to meet every demand.

In order that you may see precisely how our work was done, permit me to take up, in the order of their succession, the principal events connected with it during my stay at Chattanooga.

Toward midnight of Saturday, the 20th of November, in company with Dr. Soule, I arrived at Kelly's Ferry, ten miles below Chattanooga. Here we were hospitably entertained by our agent, Mr. Sutliffe. As I shall have occasion to return to this point in the course of my narrative, I will for the present defer reference to the great good which he has been doing here. On Sunday morning we started for Chattanooga on foot. Kelly's Ferry was at this time the head of navigation—the river being blockaded above by the rebels—and all supplies were transported from this point in wagons. As a consequence, we found the road blocked up for miles by trains going and returning, all hurrying to accomplish their almost impossible duty of preventing the army above from perishing by actual starvation. Crossing Raccoon Mountain, we came into Will's Valley, where we found Hooker's forces occupying the vantage-ground gained by their night descent of the river, and came into full view of the rebel encampments on the side, and rebel batteries on the summit of Lookout Mountain. From the latter, from time to time, came a puff of white smoke, and the sullen boom

of the forty pound Parrots, which had continued day after day to throw shells, fortunately without practical result, sometimes into Chattanooga above, sometimes into Will's Valley below their commanding position. Descending the valley, we crossed the river at Brown's Ferry, and traversing an isthmus some two miles in width, recrossed the river to the town. At this time large detachments of Sherman's forces were leaving their encapment in Will's Valley and moving up the river, nobody knew whither.

In Chattanooga I found our Agency in charge of Mr. C. Read, occupying fine rooms which, with characteristic partiality, the authorities had assigned to our use by displacing the Chief of Police who had previously occupied them. Soon after my arrival I called on the Medical Director, Dr. Perin, by whom I was most cordially received, and was gratified to hear him express not only a high respect and appreciation for the Commission, but bear strong testimony to the value of our Agency at this point, to him and to the army, as well as to the energy and discretion of our chief representative, Mr. Read. The corps of agents on duty here were as follows: M. C. Read in charge; Rev. W. F. Loomis, hospital visitor; F. R. Crarey, store-keeper, with two detailed men as assistants; M. D. Bartlett, agent of hospital directory; A. H. Sill, transportation clerk. With Mr. Read, I called at several of the headquarters, and from all the officials heard only kind words for the Commission, and assurances of their readiness to co-operate with it by all means in their power.

Chattanooga was formerly a town of about 4,000 inhabitants, containing some fine public buildings and many pleasant residences, with ornamented grounds and groves of beautiful trees; but it is now terribly desecrated and defaced, fences of all enclosures gone, fruit and ornamental trees alike cut down for fire-wood, all vacant spaces covered with huts and tents, the more prominent points crowned with strong fortifications, the whole surrounded by rifle-pits and lines of circumvallation.

On Sunday evening a large part of the 11th Army Corps came up from below, passed through the town, with three days' rations in their haversacks, and took their position, without tents or baggage, in front of the fortifications. On Monday our forces moved out, formed in double line of battle, with a front several miles in length, posted reserves in the rear, threw out skirmishers, and made a general advance, taking possession of the first line of the enemy's entrenchments, and occupied Orchard Knob in the centre of the valley, on which batteries were planted. This advance was made in excellent order, and the ambulances following close in the rear and through the skirmishing, extended along the whole line. The number of wounded was comparatively small, and they were immediately picked up and carried to the hospitals in time. On Tuesday, General Sherman having crossed the river three miles above, advanced, and without serious opposition took possession of the north end of Mission Ridge.

On the morning of the same day General Hooker moved up from Will's Valley and attacked the rebel forces occupying Lookout Mountain, and by a most daring assault gained possession of all the northern portion, with the capture of many prisoners and the loss of 250 killed and wounded. The latter were immediately carried to the hospital established near his headquarters, where they were well cared for by their own officers, supplies being sent to them from our depot at Kelly's Ferry near by. Early the next morning Mr. Read and Mr. Sill went down and saw that all the aid which the Commission could render was furnished them.

On Tuesday night the north ends of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge were aglow with the camp-fires of our forces, and we had the satisfaction of knowing that by the brilliant achievements of the morning the blockade of the river was raised, and advantages had been gained which promised important results in the impending struggle of the morrow.

Wednesday morning our flag floated from the summit of Lookout, and our forces advanced on the rebel stronghold of Mission Ridge, from our right, left, and front. After much severe fighting on our left, in which Sherman's forces suffered very heavy loss, the rebel entrenchments along the

base of Mission Ridge were stormed by our advancing lines, and then began that perilous but glorious ascent of its slope of 1,000 feet at six different points, which so surprised and appalled the rebel garrison, and has covered with glory the brave men who dared attempt it. After an hour of suspense, inexpressibly painful to the thousands who were merely powerless spectators, the summit was gained and held, the roar of the forty pieces of artillery which crowned it was suddenly silenced, and we knew that a great victory had been won.

Two wagons had been secured beforehand, with which to transport stores to any point where they might be required; but no part of the battle-field being more than three miles distant from headquarters, and ample provision having been made by the Medical Director for the immediate removal of the wounded to hospital, they were held in readiness to use, if needed, while Mr. C. Read and myself, with a small supply of stores, went over to the battle-field along the middle line of Mission Ridge, and Mr. Loomis went toward the northern end, to see if any help were required by the wounded of Sherman's Corps. By midnight all the union wounded men on that part of the field which we visited had been transferred to hospital, and such of the rebels as remained in the houses to which they had been carried had received all the aid we could give them, and so at 1 o'clock we returned to the town. Just as we arrived, Mr. Loomis came in and reported that the wounded of the 15th Army Corps had all been gathered into the Division Hospitals, but that their expected supplies had not arrived, and they were greatly in need of our assistance. A wagon load of milk, beef, crackers, tea, sugar, stimulants, dressings, &c., was immediately dispatched to them, and was, as may be imagined, of priceless value.

Early the next morning, Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Read and myself visited the hospitals of the 2d, 3d and 4th Divisions of the 15th Army Corps, situated three miles up the river. The 4th, containing the largest number of wounded, (399,) we found pretty well supplied, for the time being, with the stores we had sent up the night before; but these were rapidly disappearing, and, at our suggestion, another load was sent for and received during the day. The 2d and 3d Division hospitals, situated on the bank of the river, containing respectively 75 and 230 patients, had received up to this time no other supplies than such as had been carried in their medicine wagons, sufficient to meet the first wants of the wounded, but by this time almost entirely exhausted. Just as I was offering to Dr. Rogers, the Surgeon in charge of the 3d Division hospital, the resources of the Sanitary Commission, one of the assistant surgeons approached and said to him, "Doctor, what shall we do? Our supplies have not arrived, our men are lying on the ground, with not blankets enough to make them comfortable. We've no stimulants, or dressings, or proper food. Now, if the Sanitary Commission only had an agent here, we should be all right." I was happy to inform him that the spirit he invoked had come at his call, and when I promised that in an hour's time he should have concentrated beef, milk, stimulants, dressings, fruit, vegetables, clothing, bedding and some ticks stuffed with cotton, his satisfaction shown from every feature, and both he and the surgeon in charge spontaneously ejaculated, "Bless the Sanitary Commission"—an institution of which they had abundant experience on the Mississippi, where the kind and efficient ministrations of Dr. Warriner were remembered with pleasure and gratitude. At the 2d Division hospital I met two old professional friends, Dr. Potter, the Division surgeon, one of the most efficient medical men in the service, and Dr. Messinger, formerly from Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting, I think, was mutually pleasant, and Dr. Potter, who was just mounting his horse to follow his division, expressed great satisfaction in leaving his men with some other resources than the light stock of supplies which they had brought in their wagons all the way from the Mississippi, and most of which must be immediately hurried to the advance, for other battles were impending. All these hospitals continued to be supplied from day to day with such things as were needed.

In these remarks I would not be under-

stood as implying any neglect on the part of the responsible medical authorities, for I have only to say that Gen. Sherman's Medical Director is Surgeon Moore, U. S. A., to give all who know this officer assurance that his duty was done fully and well; but as a consequence of the difficulties of transportation, to which I have referred, and which especially affected the newly-arrived troops, his supplies were delayed, and there was an opportunity for the Commission to render its assistance in the manner I have described.

On Thanksgiving afternoon occurred the bloody fight at Ringgold, in which we lost, in killed and wounded, 500 men. Most of those wounded were soon brought into Chattanooga, but our stores, which were promptly sent, and in abundance, reached them in good time, and became of great value to them.

During the week succeeding these battles, through which I remained at Chattanooga, large quantities of stores were daily issued from our rooms to all the hospitals in the vicinity; timely arrivals of the more important articles compensating for the heavy drafts made on our stock. Of the kind and quantity of goods thus issued, you will, in due time, get a full account from the storekeeper, Mr. Crarey.

The subsequent advance of our forces towards Knoxville was accompanied by two of the three steamers plying on the river, both loaded with supplies. By this means our transportation was again reduced to its minimum, and for a few days, in common with all departments of the army, we shall be able to get forward a smaller quantity of supplies than could be advantageously used. We can calculate, however, upon a continuance of the cordial co-operation of Gen. Meigs, Dr. Perin, and the other military and medical authorities, and the good work which we have been doing will not be allowed to languish.

Before leaving Chattanooga, I must again express my high appreciation of the professional and official merit of the responsible heads of the medical department, Dr. Perin, Medical Director of the Department of the Cumberland, and Dr. Finley, Post Medical Director, as also of the earnest and faithful corps of surgeons by whom their efforts in behalf of the wounded have been so ably seconded. At the risk of seeming to see all the workings of the medical department at this point *en couleur de rose*, I must say, that no instance of incompetence or unfaithfulness was revealed by my observations; but, on the contrary, I found very much to admire in the zeal and success exhibited by all the corps of surgeons, who, with inadequate accommodations and limited materials, were able to make the wounded more immediately and entirely comfortable than could have been expected or hoped. I am sure it would have quieted some of the fears entertained by our people in regard to the faithfulness of surgeons and nurses if they could have seen with what sincere gratitude they accepted at our hands the means of administering to the wants of the poor fellows in their charge; and frequent visits to the hospitals showed me that the wounded soldiers did actually receive and greatly profit by the gifts of our loyal women of the North. Whatever may have occurred at other times and places, I am sure that after the battle of Chattanooga there was neither the opportunity nor inclination, on the part of surgeons or nurses, to misappropriate stores furnished by the Sanitary Commission; and the Metropolitan Police, who enabled us to distribute to the sufferers the rare and much prized gifts of sound, fresh lemons. The loyal women who stitched the shirts and drawers, who rolled the bandages and made the arm-slings; the Aid Societies and Branch Commissions who have sent us so liberally of dried and canned fruits, of milk and beef, wine, spirits, ale, butter, tea, sugar, farina, codfish, and other precious articles, which we were able to distribute in abundance—may rest assured that here, at least, they have accomplished all the great good which they had hoped of them.

As I expect that you will soon have a full report of the working of the Commission in this department, from the Rev. Dr. Anderson, it seems hardly necessary now for me to do anything more than merely allude to the other stations and agencies which I have just visited.

Kelly's Ferry was, until recently, the head of navigation for our steamers on the Tennessee, and is still a very important de-

pot for the trans-shipment of Government stores. It is ten miles from Chattanooga by land, and about forty by the river from Bridgeport. Immediately after the battles at Chicamauga, the Rev. O. Kennedy established a Lodge here for passing soldiers, and since he removed to Bridgeport, the work of supplying their wants, and of attending to the reception and shipment of goods, has been most faithfully and commendably performed by Mr. W. A. Sutliffe. He has been aided in his friendly offices for sick and wounded soldiers, large numbers of whom have at times been at this point, by Rev. Mr. Strong. I take great pleasure in acknowledging the hearty co-operation of Dr. Tailor, the zealous surgeon of the Post, and of Lieut.-Col. Cahill, of the 16th Illinois, commandant of the Post, who has been always ready to aid the Agents of the Commission in every way possible, and has greatly helped us in forwarding goods, by detailing men to serve as guards for our wagons, and likewise for the accumulated stores at the landing.

Bridgeport is a very important point in our chain of Agencies—so much so, that we are compelled to keep a strong force, and they have been at times greatly pressed by their duties. There is here a large field-hospital, most admirably managed, by Dr. Wm. Varian, U. S. V. To him we are indebted for the most valuable aid in establishing our depot and lodge. The warehouse, formed of several large hospital tents, has been carefully arranged by Dr. Coates, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Pococke, conveniently near to the railroad station and the field-hospital, while the lodge under the care of Mr. Kennedy, assisted by two detailed men, is close upon the steamboat landing.

At Stevenson we have now no agency; but it is expected that it will be advisable to re-establish one there soon. The "Alabama House" has been offered by the Quartermaster to the Commission, to be used as a Soldiers' Home, and it is probable that we shall avail ourselves of the opportunity of at the same time abating a nuisance and creating a blessing, by taking it. Stevenson is becoming an important location, and now has no suitable place for the accommodation of either officers or men, well or sick.

Murfreesboro' was, for a time, virtually abandoned when the army advanced; but large numbers of hospital patients are henceforth to be placed there. We have, therefore, re-established our agency, and occupy a spacious warehouse, with Mr. E. L. Jones in charge.

At Nashville, as you may suppose, there is great activity. Dr. Read superintends the multiplied branches of the business; Mr. Robinson, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Fea attend to the large amount of stores passing into and out of the warehouse; Mr. Hoblit and Mr. Ingraham respond to the many calls made upon them in the departments of Hospital and Special Relief, while Capt. Brayton oversees the arrangements of the Home. I have the satisfaction of knowing, from personal inspection and intercourse, that the varied and unceasing duties of these officers of the Commission are faithfully performed, often at the cost of much personal discomfort, annoyance and fatigue.

Yours respectfully,

J. S. Newberry,
Sec. West'n Dep't.

THE RELIEF AGENCY.

Mr. Murray, Relief Agent with the Second Army Corps, writes:

On the 4th of Sept. the undersigned returned from a short furlough, resumed his duties as Relief Agent with the 2d Army Corps, relieving the Rev. J. A. Anderson, who had been placed in charge of Sanitary affairs in the 12th Corps. The ordinary duties of special relief and of distribution of stores continue to be discharged by frequent visitations to regiments and inspection of hospitals. On the 12th inst. the corps broke camp at Morrisville and moved toward the river, as a support to the cavalry who were then engaged with Stuart's forces on Mountain Run. We halted for the night near Rappahannock Station, and resumed our march early the following morning, crossing the river on pontoons laid near the R. R. bridge.

After we had passed three miles beyond the river, the enemy were found strongly entrenched on the heights of Brandy Station, which the cavalry division of Gen. Buford was hotly assailing. The action

was but of short duration, and resulted in the driving of the Confederates to a point beyond Culpepper C. H. The ambulance train to which my wagon was attached was very fortunately parked near the field hospital established by the cavalry, and I had the satisfaction of distributing a considerable quantity of stimulants and old linen to the surgeons in charge. The wagons containing their hospital stores and appliances had been left beyond the river, and they were almost entirely destitute of the commonest hospital necessities. After remaining at the hospital for an hour, my wagon rejoined the train and pressed on to Culpepper, which we reached the same evening, (13th.)

I was thus enabled to reach Culpepper and afford relief to the sick and wounded in hospital at that place, not only before the wagons of this or any other "Commission" had reached it, but before even the supply wagons of the Medical or Subsistence Depts. had entered the town. Our cavalry had already driven the rebels beyond the Rapidan and the 2d Corps continued their occupation of Culpepper and vicinity till the 16th, while the main army was being brought up from beyond the river. These days were spent in visitations to the various hospitals occupied by the cavalry and 2d Corps, and the distribution of such stores as seemed necessary for the comfort of the men. This being the first test of the new relief system on the march and in action, it affords us pleasure to bear witness to the almost unanimous verdict in its favor, especially from the surgeons of the cavalry corps, who had been before cut off by the very nature of their movements from all assistance from us. On the 16th inst. we moved out from Culpepper, and on the following morning went into camp at Sommerville Ford, on the Rapidan. During the whole march my wagon, being on the immediate advance, was in such a position as to reach cases which would perhaps otherwise have been neglected entirely. More than once has my wagon been stopped by a train of ambulances bringing the wounded from the front, and a requisition supplied, or a call for a bandage, etc., made by some poor fellow, complied with. We remained in camp at the aforementioned point until the 4th of October, when the batteries opposite invited us to skedaddle, which invitation the representative of Sanitary Commission was not the last to accept. During our stay upon the Rapidan, the divisions of our corps were so widely separated that it was found impossible to supply their requisitions from my wagon; I therefore requested the surgeons of each Brigade to notify the regiments of the existence of our storehouse at the Court House, and requested them to make their requisitions upon it for supplies. This was generally complied with. During our camp here, the 3d Division, then lying upon the Slaughter Mountain battle-field, was visited, thus completing my first round of regimental visitations. On the day immediately following our bombardment, we were relieved by the 6th Corps, and fell back to the Court House; here we imagined we were about to make permanent quarters, and immediately began the establishment of division hospitals and the construction of camps. We remained in this position until the 9th, when we were ordered out upon the Sperryville Pike to relieve the 3d Corps.

The same night, about twelve, we were ordered to evacuate our position, and commenced our part of the celebrated run to Centreville. We removed all our sick from the Culpepper hospitals, and resuming our march, reached Brandy Station by daylight. Continuing our retreat, we made camp at Bealeton on the night of the 11th. The next morning we sent our sick to Washington by rail, and during the afternoon moved again toward the Rappahannock. The troops recrossed and moved to Brandy Station, the ambulances and other trains remaining on the north side. Before daylight the following morning we were aroused, and again fell back this time on the road to Liberty Church.

Passing the church, we reached 3 Mile Station on the Warrenton Branch R. R. the same evening.

During the night we marched through a dense forest to Murray Hill. We remained there till 3 A. M. of the 14th, entirely surrounded, as we afterwards learned, by Hill's Corps, whose advance lay within a quarter of a mile of our lines. At about five in the morning, as we were passing through a

ravine near Fox Run, our train of ambulances, which had passed out of our lines, were opened upon by rebel batteries planted on Auburn Hills, which rise beyond the Run. Our position for a few moments was a very unpleasant one, between the bullets of those skirmishing on each side of the train and the shells falling around us. I had no doubt for a short time, that wagon No. 14, its driver, and last, but not least to me, the agent, had purchased tickets for that popular route to Richmond, viâ Gordonsville.

The cavalry succeeded in making a way for us to fall back, which we rapidly and immediately did. While the action was going on in front of us, I distributed several articles of stores to the ambulance surgeons, there being no field hospitals established. We were able to resume our march in about two hours, when we continued our retreat, or rather run, as it now had become.

Our fast gait enabled us to reach Centreville at 7 P. M. of the same day, where we went into camp. The fight at Bristow Station took place on this afternoon, lasting from 3 till 5 P. M. Our ambulances were considerably in advance of the troops when the attack commenced, and as it was evident that our troops would fall back, I sent my wagon forward with the majority. I however put a few articles in one of the detachment wagons sent to the front, and accompanied them till I met Surgeon Myers, in charge of the wounded of the 2d Division, to whom I delivered them. The action at this time being nearly over, I returned to the train, which I reached as they were making a park beyond the Bull Run. During the whole of this night and the succeeding day, I remained distributing and relieving as best I might, the loads of suffering wounded men, which were every hour brought to the ambulance hospital.

A large quantity of blankets, shirts, drawers, wine, bandages, &c., were distributed in the way of special relief. The Superintendent of Field Relief was very fortunately upon the ground, and assisted me greatly by his advice and work. On the 15th the camps of our corps on the run were shelled by the rebels, who fell back the following morning, thus ending this stage of the fall campaign.

Our five days of retreat, from the 10th to the 15th, were most severe in their character, wearing out both officers and men. The second corps were assigned to the duty of covering the retreat, which gave them much more severe marching, and led them into two actions which were avoided by the other corps.

If I had been able to procure a new supply of goods while at Centreville, such as were anti-scorbutic, they would have been of great use. As it was, I was compelled to economize my stores. On the 19th inst. we moved to Bristow Station; on the 20th to Gainesville; and the same night, over the worst road I ever traveled, we rejoined the main body of the corps at Auburn Hills. We changed our camp from this point to Turkey Bend, on the Warrenton Branch R. R., on the 23d.

On the 28th inst. I went to Gainesville, at that time used as a depot by the Chief Quartermaster, but was unable to procure any stores, and returned to camp the following day. On the 31st I started for Washington, and returned on November 4th with quite a large stock of goods. On the 7th camp was broken at Turkey Bend, and the line of march taken for Kelly's Ford. During our stay at the former place a second visitation to the regiments was undertaken, and nearly gone through with. We crossed the Rappahannock on the 8th, with no serious fighting, and passing through the lately deserted encampments of the rebels, halted near Brandy Station. On the 10th we moved to Mountain Run, and made camp on its banks. Here we remained for two weeks, and while here the ordinary duties of the Relief Agent were discharged. On the 23d we received orders to move, but, after passing a mile from camp, were recalled on account of the severe weather.

On the 26th, Thanksgiving Day, we at last got off, and moved rapidly toward Germania Ford, on the Rapidan, which was crossed the same evening without opposition. On the next day we reached Robertson's Tavern, on the Orange Pike, where we found the enemy in force. There was heavy skirmishing all day, but no general action was brought on. During the night the enemy fell back to Old Ver-

diersville and behind the entrenchments on Mine Run, to the banks of which stream we followed him. On the morning of the 29th, the 2d corps, two divisions of the 3d, and one of the 6th corps, all under command of Gen. Warren, were ordered to the Plankroad leading to Orange Court House. We reached Fairmont Church in the evening, and moved out before daylight to the front of the enemy's works.

We remained on their front till December 1st, when we were ordered back to Culpepper Ford. We crossed the Ford by night, and re-entered our old camps on Mountain Run the following day. The loss of the corps during the movement was about five hundred of all classes. The use and advantage of the present system of field relief was more evident to me than ever during this short campaign. The weather was most intensely cold, and our supply of quilts and blankets relieved from suffering, or, perhaps, preserved the lives of many wounded. The wounded were all under the charge of Surgeon Dwinalle, to whom many articles were furnished. I made it my business during the campaign to visit repeatedly the field hospitals, which duty was particularly arduous after our movement to the right had left me the only representative of the Commission with Warren's large command. I have the pleasure of reporting that my stock was adequate to the demand, and in no case was a proper call denied. During our movement the wounded were the major portion of the time in the ambulance train. I was, therefore, able from my stores to furnish them daily soft crarkces, tea, milk, stimulants, &c. Every evening milk punch was made by the attendants, and distributed to those needing it. Through my observation of my own as well as other corps, and from the expression of medical officers, it is my impression that the Commission brought itself most favorably before the army; and, what is better still, relieved a mass of suffering which would not have otherwise been reached, and gave many a poor fellow another sight of his sweet northern home who would else have slept under the forest trees of the wilderness. On the 5th we moved our camp to Stevensburgh, and on the 7th moved to Shephard's Grave, where the camp is at present situated. On the 6th the undersigned was relieved by Dr. G. E. Holbrook, and on the 10th returned to Washington. During the past quarter it has been his endeavor to keep himself as much as possible under the direction of the medical staff of his corps, to whom he is indebted for many kindnesses and much valuable advice. In fact, as a representative of the Commission, he has met with nothing but courtesy from all the officers with whom his duties have thrown him; and his position has been rendered doubly pleasant from the uniform kindness and sympathy of those under whom he has been acting. He has to return his thanks for the promptness with which all his demands upon their time were met, and for the amount of good he has been able to accomplish in his department.

Mr. Kurtz writes:

Having just returned from Brandy Station, I deem it a privilege no less than a duty, to lay before you a few facts with reference to my field experience. Thursday, November 26, 1863, we received the order to move. It was my lot to be connected with one of the Field Relief wagons, temporarily attached to the Ambulance train of the 1st Division, 6th Corps. Left camp, accompanied by Captain Harris, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. D. S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, at 6 o'clock, A. M. At 2 o'clock, A. M., (November 27th,) the train came to a halt on the plank road leading to Germania Ford. An hour afterwards we commenced moving again, coming by 8 o'clock in the morning within eight miles of the Ford. Though weary and fagged out, we still preferred moving on to an uncertain halt, and felt no little indignation when hour after hour passed without being able to put our teams in motion. At last, at 8 o'clock in the evening, the wagon-master concluded to encamp for the night, with the intention of crossing the pontoon bridge at dawn. This intention was carried out at 2 o'clock, A. M., (Nov. 28th,) and we reached Locust Grove at seven, where we fed our horses and breakfasted.

Here the effects of the march upon the men began to be seen. Many foot-sore, hungry, sick and weary, lagged behind their regiments; and here I had for the first time

the satisfaction, as agent to the Sanitary Commission, to speak words of encouragement to the men, and to administer to the needs of those who were suffering from diarrhœa, &c., on the march. By 4 o'clock, P. M., the same day, we arrived at a spot near the expected battle-field—moving by way of the Fredericksburg and Orange Turnpike. Hospitals were immediately extemporized for the various divisions of the army, and the men wounded in the engagement of the previous day were removed into them. During our stay here for two days, I visited frequently the hospital, 1st Division, 6th Corps, and find pleasure in stating that we were treated by the surgeons of the Corps with kindness and courtesy. Indeed every medical officer whose acquaintance I made in my capacity as agent of the Sanitary Commission, manifested the deepest concern regarding the comfort and needs of the men, and almost invariably inquired into the variety and amount of stores placed in my hands for distribution.

December 1st, we started on our return to Brandy Station. About midnight the train stuck in the mud, and hundreds of the wounded were obliged to remain in the ambulances during the night. As soon as the impassibility of the roads was thus demonstrated, an order was given to camp, and the surgeons in charge of the wounded inquired with a loud voice for the agents of the Sanitary Commission. At once we repaired to the place, and in the darkness of the night delivered to the medical officers such stimulants, condensed milk and crackers as they needed to feed the wounded soldiers. We were moved to tears at the sight of the patient heroism of the sufferers, and our hearts were cheered beyond expression by the knowledge that, through the aid of the Sanitary Commission, the darkness and gloom of the night was lighted up for these wounded patients.

At 8 o'clock in the morning we resumed the march. By order of the surgeon, another halt was made a short distance from Brandy Station. Here again the assistance of the Commission was called into requisition, and the remainder of the beef extract and crackers in the wagon was distributed. After the wounded had been refreshed, we moved again until we reached the ground occupied by the division before the march. During the remainder of our stay with the army we were gratified at being able to furnish the medical officers with socks, drawers, &c., for the wounded, prior to their transportation to Washington.

Allow me, in conclusion, to state that my experience as *pro tempore* Field Relief Agent of the Sanitary Commission, brief as it was, has satisfied me that the value of the Commission is appreciated by both men and officers; so that I can well understand the truth of the remark made by Dr. Clark, (1st Division, 6th Corps,) after we had brought him socks and drawers for the hospital under his charge: "I do not know what would have become of this army had it not been for the Sanitary Commission." This remark simply echoed the sentiments of many officers and privates expressed to us at various times. It would be superfluous in me to dwell upon the importance of the field organization in the Army of the Potomac, under your successful supervision. Thousands of sick and wounded soldiers throughout the land have spread the fame of the noble and self-denying worth of your agents in the field, sharing as they do many of the dangers and all the privations and inconveniences of camp life; and the day cannot be far distant when a grateful nation, redeemed from the curse of treason, will pronounce the name of the U. S. Sanitary Commission with a heart overflowing with gratitude.

D. S. Pope, (Relief Agent, 6th Army Corps,) speaking in his report of the movement, says, with reference to the 2d of December:

We started for Brandy Station. The roads were in a horrid condition. * * * About eleven o'clock in the evening we stuck, and remained thus until morning. The sick in the ambulances suffered a great deal. The hard tack had given out, and also their beef tea. We issued the crackers from Mr. Kurtz's wagon, and beef tea, rum and milk from mine. Captain Harris, our Assistant Superintendent, made some hot milk punch for them, which many declared did them more good than anything they could have had.

Captain Isaac Harris, referring to the

same occasion in his report, says: It was here that the Commission was appreciated. The men had started with five days' rations, which were consumed on Monday night; consequently the sick and wounded in the ambulances would have been without food, had it not been that they were supplied with crackers, beef tea and milk punch by the agents. The following morning they were served with beef-tea and crackers, and again at noon, when the army had reached its former camps.

CLASSIFICATION OF WOUNDS.

LETTER FROM DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL T. LONGMORE, PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SURGERY AT THE ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, ENGLAND, TO FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, ESQ., SECRETARY OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON.

NETLEY, ENGLAND, *November*, 1863.

To the Secretary of the Sanitary Commission, Washington:

SIR—Inspector-General Dr. Muir, Principal Medical Officer to the British forces in Canada, has forwarded to me copies of the valuable reports which the Sanitary Commission has issued from time to time, for the use of the army surgeons in the field. He has also sent me blank copies of the returns in use in the United States Army, among others the form of the monthly report of sick and wounded, in which occurs the TABULAR STATEMENT OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS, showing the "seat and character" of each wound inflicted, the "side of the body wounded," "how received," "nature of missile," "treatment," and "result," with a column for short remarks.

There are some features in this tabular statement which, it appears to me, are likely to impair its utility for comparison with tabular returns of injuries of a like nature in other countries, and believing the subject to be one of great professional importance, I am anxious to call the attention of the Sanitary Commission, and by its means, that of the surgeons of the American Army at large, to the classified form of return, or tabular statement, of gunshot wounds which is now adopted in England. It is one which was arranged by an English surgeon of great experience in battle-fields, but who has lately retired from active service — Inspector-General Taylor, C. B.

I trust that my professional colleagues across the Atlantic will pardon the liberty I am taking in sending this letter, for the sake of the motive which has prompted me to write it. This is none other than an earnest desire that the sufferings of your brave soldiers now in the field may, among other rewards, be attended with this good: that the additional experience in military surgery which their injuries are capable of giving to the stores of information already accumulated by the members of our noble profession, may be fully gathered, and that in this way the labors of army surgeons may be still better enabled to fulfil their high purpose of saving lives of the utmost value to their country in its hour of need, and of generally lessening the unavoidable miseries of war.

It may appear to some surgeons, at first view, a matter of no great interest what kind of arrangement is adopted in army returns so long as a general nomenclature is used, and on the whole correctly applied; experience has, however, taught that so far from this being the case, the importance of precision and accuracy in clasification is just as great as correctness in nomenclature, and that the nature of statistical and professional returns will bear exact relation to the degree in which this importance is appreciated. Such precision, indeed, is especially important in the army returns, with which military surgeons have to deal, and in no department of the military surgeon's practice in which detailed returns are called for, is this importance more obvious than in the Department of Wounds, and especially of gunshot wounds. In time of war these injuries usually occur in large numbers together; the occasions are such that surgeons have no time to spare for entering into detailed reports of each particular case; and yet the nature of each case must be defined within fixed limits, if the records furnished regarding them are to be turned to any practically useful results, whether as regards their surgical consequences, their ultimate results in disabling and invaliding soldiers, or in establishing comparisons between the effects of various

modes of treatment. If wounds of different characters and gravity, wounds complicated with serious lesions, and others simple and uncomplicated, are mixed together under one heading, then the deductions such as I have indicated, on being made, must be open to so many sources of error that no reliance can be placed upon them.

I feel assured that the members of the Commission will fully join with me in estimating as extremely important, in a professional point of view, the condition that, whatever form of classification be adopted, whatever form of tabular statement framed in our returns, these forms should be such as will enable surgeons to compare with exactness injuries of like kinds and degrees of gravity as regards their statistical results, whether in respect to mortality, or the effects of operative interference, or other treatment. They will also agree, that these means of exact comparison should not be limited to the tabular statements derived from different actions in which one and the same people may have been engaged, but should embrace a far wider range; indeed, should be capable of being applied universally, so that the surgical results of warlike operations in all parts of the world might be placed side by side and compared. It would probably be attended with valuable practical results if an international congress of surgeons were formed for the purpose of agreeing upon a common classification and form of return of the injuries of war; for until such a general arrangement be determined, there must remain a certain amount of needless imperfection in the statistical information derived from such sources.

The tabular statement in the report of sick and wounded divides the seats and characters of the gunshot wounds into four principal sections, viz., flesh wounds, wounds of cavities, fractures of bones, and wounds of joints. These, again, are subdivided into regions, or into particular bones or joints; but provision is not made for indicating such wounds as those of the larger arteries, nerves, organs of special sense, as the eye, and others. These injuries might be referred to in the accompanying remarks, but they would not be shown in the numerical returns. A gunshot fracture of the cranium with depression, but *without penetration* of the dura mater, is a very different injury in its essential features than another injury *with penetration* of the dura mater, and the prospect of success from elevation or trephining in the one case as a remedial measure is widely different from what it is in the other. But such special differences would not appear in the tabular statement, and without such limitations in the premises the conclusions shown in the column of results must necessarily be much impaired in scientific value. An examination of the tabular statement will exhibit many other deficiences such as I have alluded to: but I will not dwell on these, as they will more readily suggest themselves perhaps by an inspection of the classification I am forwarding with these remarks.

Before submitting Inspector-General Taylor's classification, permit me to take a brief review of what had been done in this country in the way of classifying polemical wounds previously to its appearance, and also to make a few remarks on the advantages of its arrangement.

Strange as it may appear, until the year 1855, and until several months after the opening battle of the Alma, there was no specific classification for gunshot wounds in this country. These injuries were shown numerically in the ordinary returns under the general term of "Vulnera Sclopitorum," and a division of them was also made after each action, according to their supposed gravity, whether slight or dangerous. The order which the English surgeons received at the commencement of the Crimean War for the classification of the killed and wounded among the men of their regiments, and on which they acted, was the following:

"As soon after an action as possible, medical officers in charge of corps will make out, and transmit to the Inspector-General of Hospitals, for the information of the General Commanding in Chief, returns of casualties, made out agreeably to the following form:"

RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED IN —— REGT., IN ACTION OF ——

	Killed.	Wounded.			Total Wounded.	Remarks.
		Dangerously.	*Severely.*	*Slightly.*		
Officers.....						
Non-commission'd Officers and Men						

No other classified return of gunshot injuries was furnished. This was the general form used during the Peninsular War, and during the 40 years which succeeded the closing scene of the Duke of Wellington's final success at Waterloo, no change in it was made. Such a form of return was scarcely in advance of the method of arrangement employed by Hippocrates and Celsus, into "mortal" and "non-mortal" wounds, of each class, of which they defined regular lists; and scarcely so advanced as those employed by some of their successors, who subdivided the mortal wounds according to the *causes* of their fatality—such as wounds producing death by impeding respiration, by depriving the body of nutrition, by hæmorrhage, and so on.

In addition to the numerical and descriptive return above mentioned, it was expected by the authorities that the histories of wounds of particular interest would be furnished in the monthly or annual professional reports of corps, but the regulations required nothing more. Sometimes surgeons of their own accord would tabulate the cases which come under their care, for the sake of conciseness and order; but from the different views held by different surgeons, and the tendency that would naturally occur to put prominently forward some specially successful results, or features having a particular attraction for the surgeons who reported them, no fair comparisons could be instituted between the tables from different sources. Other zealous surgeons, again, would gather together groups of cases from a wider field of observation, for the purpose of investigating special questions, or illustrating particular doctrines; but such summaries could only be made by an expenditure of much personal exertion, and they also too often contained the same elements of error as those I just now adverted to.

The following is an example of individual arrangement: The last year in which any considerable body of soldiers laboring under the effects of polemical injuries came to England, prior to the Crimean period, was the year 1848, when the military operations in India, New Zealand, and the Cape of Good Hope furnished a number of cases of this class. The medical officer in charge of the hospital where these invalids were received, arranged their injuries in a special return, the first column of which was intended to show the nature and situation of the wounds, and the remaining columns the various ways in which the patients were finally disposed of. On examining the column of "Situation," in the first line, wounds of the head and face were returned together, and I need hardly mention what different considerations are involved in the wounds of these two regions. Then followed wounds of the thorax: thirdly, of the abdomen: and fourthly, of the back; without any subdivisions to show whether parietes only, or the cavities connected with them, or any other complications were involved in the injuries. Five headings then followed for wounds of the upper extremity, viz: Shoulder, arm, elbow, forearm, and hand; and six for wounds of the lower extremity, viz: Hip, thigh, knee, leg, ankle, and foot; without any indication to point to particular injuries of bones, nerves, or arteries, with which some of them were doubtless complicated.

The returns of a corresponding kind which have been handed down to us from the Peninsular campaigns, are, for the most part, of an equally unsatisfactory nature. Inspector-General Taylor referred to this fact, in proposing his classification, in the following remarks: "The necessity," he writes, "for some such classification as that now proposed, is obvious, from referring to the returns drawn up during the Peninsular War. These will be found nearly uninteresting and uninstructive, in consequence of the want of due distinction amongst wounds of wholly different nature and quality. In the wounds of the head, chest and abdomen no distinction is made between simple flesh wounds of these re-

gions and injuries of the more important viscera. The returns do not even distinguish between incised and gunshot wounds, which are of such totally different value even in the same parts; all kinds of wounds seem brought together simply as 'surgical cases,' and in some of the returns of 'capital operations,' it is not clear whether fingers and toes have, or have not, been included under the terms upper and lower extremities." It is somewhat important that the fact should be known of these uncertainties and serious imperfections existing in the comparatively recent professional returns referred to, for in almost all works of surgery they are quoted as standards of comparison, with a variety of objects, to show the results of amputation in different regions, for example.

Inspector-General Taylor commenced his classification of gunshot wounds in India at the time of the Sutlej campaign; but completed it in the present shape, while the principal medical officer at Chatham, before leaving for the Crimea. He submitted it when in charge of the 3d Division, before Sebastopol, to the head of the medical department in the Crimea, in July, 1855, and it was then ordered to be adopted for the army returns in general. A few months before that time Deputy Inspector-General Parry had employed it in classifying the wounded under his charge in the Surgical Division of the Invalid Hospital at Fort Pitt, during the period ending 31st March, 1855—the time when the first series of wounded invalids from the Crimea arrived in this country. This may be safely said to be the first time that a general classification of gunshot wounds at all approaching to precision was employed in the army returns of any country. The purpose of the classification is so well explained in the Deputy Inspector's Annual Report for the date just mentioned, that I cannot forbear quoting a few of his remarks on the subject.

"With a view of forming something approaching to a correct estimate," he writes, "of these various wounds and injuries, I have, in the following table, classified them according to different regions of the body in which they were situated, and afterwards subdivided these under each class into several species, according as they were either confined simply to the soft tissues, or complicated with more or less injury of the osseous structures and articulations, or with lesion of important organs, vessels, or nerves; and these latter, again, according to the nature and degree of complication. This classification is framed according to a form of descriptive return of wounds which was drawn up by Deputy Inspector-General Taylor soon after the arrival of wounded into this establishment, but is extended more in detail."

The extension to which Mr. Parry here refers, he adapted to the particular cases which happened to fall under his care. Thus, under Class 2, "Gunshot wounds of the face," Mr. Parry extended the distinctions into those complicated with injury to bones and lesion of one eye, lesion of both eyes, lesion of one ear, lesion of eye, ear, and sense of taste, and so on. The classification readily admits of such subdivisions as these, and this one of the great advantages of its arrangements.

As will be seen by reference to the classification, gunshot wounds are divided into 12 classes. Inspector-General Taylor added three other classes—one for sword wounds, a second for lance and bayonet wounds, and a third for miscellaneous wounds not included in the foregoing; so that all the injuries received in action might find a place in the returns.

I will conclude this letter by appending Inspector-General Taylor's classification, arranged in form for a descriptive numerical return. (See form A.) When required for a detailed description of particular cases, the headings of the return are simply printed over a wider space, so as to leave room for remarks under each heading. (See form B.) Finally, permit me to express the hope that the subject may be thought not unworthy of the consideration of the members of the Sanitary Commission, and that the remarks I have made may lead to discussion of the question whether this classification is best suited to ensure precision of tabulation, or requires further improvement.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS LONGMORE.

[Form A.] Descriptive Numerical Return of Wounds and Injuries received in Action, admitted into the ——— , between the———of———, and———of———, 186–.
———, the———of———186–.

CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFICATION OF WOUNDS AND INJURIES.	Remained on the ———, 186–.	Since Admitted.	Died.	Discharged to Duty.	Transferred: To other Hospitals or Stations.	Transferred: Re-admitted for other Diseases.	Transferred: Re-admitted for Capital Operation.	Remaining on the ———, 186–.
1. Gun-shot Wounds of the Head.								
1. Contusions and simple flesh wounds of Scalp ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. With contusion or fracture of the cranium, without depression								
3. Ditto, with depression								
4. Penetrating the cranium								
5. Perforating do.								
2. Gun-shot Wounds of the Face.								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. Penetrating, perforating, or lacerating the bony structures, without lesion of important organs								
3. Ditto, with lesion of the ...								
4. With fracture of the lower jaw								
3. Gun-shot Wounds of the Neck.								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. With injury of the ...								
4. Gun-shot Wounds of the Chest.								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. With injury of bony or cartilaginous parietes, without lesion of contents								
3. With lesion of contents by contusion, or with non-penetrating wound								
4. Penetrating, and ball lodged, or apparently lodged								
5. Perforating contents ... Superficially. / Deeply								
5. Gun-shot Wounds of the Abdomen.								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. Contusion or non-penetrating wound, with lesion of ...								
3. Penetrating or perforating, with lesion of ...								
6. Gun-shot Wounds of Back and Spine.								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. With fracture of vertebra, without lesion of spinal cord								
3. With lesion of spinal cord								
7. Gun-shot Contusions and Wounds of the Perineum and Genital and Urinary Organs, not being at the same time Wounds of the Peritoneum								
8. Gun-shot Wounds of the Upper Extremities								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. With contusion and partial fracture of long bones, including fracture of the clavicle and scapula								
3. Simple fracture of long bones by contusion from round shot								
4. With compound fracture of ... Humerus / Radius / Ulna / Ulna and Radius. / All three bones								
5. Penetrating, perforating, or lacerating the several structures of the carpus and metacarpus								
6. Dividing or lacerating the structures of the fingers or thumbs.								
9. Gun-shot Wounds of the Lower Extremities.								
1. Simple flesh contusions and wounds ... Slight.. / Severe.								
2. With contusion and partial fracture of long bones								
3. With simple fracture of long bones by contusion of round shot.								
4. With compound fracture of ... Femur / Tibia only / Fibula only / Tibia and Fibula. / All three bones								
5. Penetrating, perforating, or lacerating the several structures of the tarsus and metatarsus								
6. Dividing or lacerating the structures of the toes								
10. Gun-shot Wounds, with direct injury of the large arteries, not being at the same time cases of compound fracture								
11. Gun-shot Wounds, with direct penetration or perforation of the larger joints ... With fracture of bone. / Without fracture								
12. Gun-shot Wounds, with direct injury of the large nerves, not being at the same time cases of compound fracture								
13. Sword, wounds of								
14. Lance and bayonet, wounds of								
15. Miscellaneous Wounds and Injuries received in action.								
Total Wounds and Injuries received in action								

(Form B.)

CLASS I.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE HEAD.

1.
Contusions and simple flesh wounds of the scalp.
Slight.
Severe.

2.
With contusion or fracture of the cranium, without depression.

3.
With fracture of cranium, with depression.

4.
Gunshot wound penetrating the cranium.

5.
Gunshot wound perforating the cranium.

CLASS II.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE FACE.

1.
Simple flesh wound.
Slight.
Severe.

2.
Lacerating the bony structures, without lesion of important organs.

3.
Laceration, with injury to the palate.

4.
Laceration of face, with injury to the tongue.

5.
Gunshot fracture of lower jaw.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

is in urgent want of funds. Its operations for the relief of the Army were never more extensive and effective than now. Its depots and agents are at every military center, from Washington to the Rio Grande. The money value of the supplies it issued to the Army of the Potomac during and immediately after Gettysburg, exceeded seventy thousand dollars. Its issues at Chattanooga were on a like scale. Thousands of men needing "Special Relief," are daily cared for in its "Homes." Its steamboats and wagon-trains follow our soldiers everywhere. Its other and equally important departments of work—sanitary inspection, hospital inspection, hospital directory, transportation of the sick and wounded, &c., are in full operation. The cost of all this life-saving work is not less than forty-five thousand dollars per month.

Its funds are now much reduced, and immediate contributions are required to sustain it.

The Fairs that have been got up with such admirable and unprecedented energy and success at Chicago, Cincinnati, and Boston, though reported everywhere as "for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission," *have not as yet contributed a dollar to its treasury.* The large sums thus raised have been received by the branches of the Commission, at those cities respectively. These branches apply them most usefully, mainly to the purchase of material to be made up into clothing, bedding, &c., and for like purposes. They thus relieve the treasury of the Commission from the necessity of purchasing supplies belonging to certain classes; but they render no aid to any other department of its work.

Those who desire fuller information as to the organization, methods, and cost of the Commission, are referred to a statement of its system, and of the application of its funds, just published, copies of which may be had on application at the Office of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 823 Broadway, and at the book-store of A. D. F. Randolph, No. 683 Broadway.

It is submitted to all humane and patriotic men, that the Commission has saved, and is daily saving, lives the country cannot afford to lose. What it is doing to economize the life and health of the soldier, is worth to the country ten times the money the Commission has received, and is of direct practical importance to every one interested in diminishing the cost and the duration of the war.

Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer, at No. 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York.

By order of the Standing Committee,

GEO. T. STRONG,
Treasurer U. S. San. Com.

Dec. 28, 1863.

THE RICHMOND PRISONERS.

LIBBY PRISON, RICHMOND, VA., *Dec. 7th*, 1863.

DEAR SIR: This afternoon I had the pleasure of receiving your kind note of the 23d of November.

I hope the people will not make contributions for Libby Prison. By so doing, they will be likely to send here far more supplies than will be needed. Whatever the people may choose to give, let it be to the United States Sanitary Commission, which will send to us every thing that we shall require, and nothing will be lost or wasted. The Sanitary Commission will distribute its benefactions intelligently, at the points where they will be most wanted.

Will you please have the above published in Boston, New York, and Portland?

I am very well and in excellent spirits. Remember me kindly to all my temperance friends. I am more earnest in the good cause than ever, if possible; and when the war is over, which will not be far off, I shall go to work as earnestly as ever.

Truly yours,

NEAL DOW, Brig.-Gen. U. S. A.

H. K. MORRELL, Esq., Gardiner, Me.

THE CASE OF SURGEON-GENERAL HAMMOND.

Editors Sanitary Commission Bulletin:

GENTLEMEN: I am interested in every thing that affects the efficiency of the medical service of our army, inasmuch as I have kinsmen and friends in its ranks, and the loss or the preservation of their lives may at any moment turn on the question whether the Army Medical Department is well or ill administered. I make no apology, therefore, for asking information on certain points connected with its administration, in which hundreds of thousands of the people feel as deep an interest as I do.

I understand that the President and Senate, more than a year ago, appointed a certain Dr. Wm. A. Hammond to be Surgeon-General of the Army, or, in other words, General Superintendent of all that our Government does to protect our soldiers against disease, and to provide them well-ordered hospitals when sick or wounded; that Dr. Hammond was so appointed because the President and Senate were satisfied that he was pre-eminently qualified for the duties of that high place—on the efficient performance of which duties the life and the health of hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers so largely depend. I hear that his administration has been energetic and efficient. On this point I may, of course, be misinformed; but the last report of the Secretary of War, as published in the newspapers, states that only about eleven per cent. of our soldiers are in hospital, because of disease, and I know that this is far below the average amount of sickness in the British army in the Crimea, and in any foreign army about which I have been able to inform myself; and this certainly seems to show that Dr. Hammond has done his official duty with ability and with unusual success.

It now appears from common report that he has incurred the displeasure of Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, and that the Secretary has felt himself authorized practically to nullify the action of the President and Senate in appointing him Surgeon-General, and has ordered him off to Chattanooga or Knoxville, directing him to stay there until further orders, without any duty to perform, and has in the mean time put some one else (I do not know whom) into his place as Acting Surgeon-General.

Now I have a great respect for the Secretary of War, (as every loyal American ought to have in these times,) and that respect rests mainly on the results he has produced and the general progress our armies have made since he took office, in our war against rebellion. But I respect our lawful Surgeon-General for just the same reason. He seems to have been at least equally successful in fighting camp disease, and introducing method, economy, and efficiency into our military hospitals.

What I want you to tell me is—

1. Can Mr. Stanton *legally* remove a high officer of the Government, like the Surgeon-General, and put some one else in his place?

2. Supposing Mr. Stanton to have no legal right to do so, but that in these critical and perilous days the public welfare requires him to assume it, should not the exercise of this extreme and almost revolutionary power be at once followed up by a demand on his part for a Congressional Committee of Inquiry, or for the more direct and prompt process of a Court-Martial or a Court of Inquiry to investigate the charges of misconduct on which he feels justified in thus assuming to remove from his place an officer whom he did not put in it?

His action seems unjustifiable unless the Surgeon-General's administration has been grossly and notoriously corrupt or inefficient. Even if legal evidence of such corruption or inefficiency, such as would satisfy a court, cannot be obtained, there must be moral evidence of it that would satisfy a Congressional Committee. If there is not, how did Mr. Stanton satisfy himself on the subject, and become convinced that it was his duty to override law and usage by practically dismissing Dr. Hammond from an office to which he was appointed

as the best man for it, by just the same authority that made him, Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War?

3. Who is the present "Acting Surgeon-General" of the army? Have the President and Senate, or either, ever assigned to him the most responsible duties of that great office? If not, under what color of title is he now executing them? What is the Surgeon-General doing at the Southwestern frontier post to which he is banished? Who had the right to send him there? What good does the country get from the scientific acquirements and the administrative ability, the proof of which made him Surgeon-General, while he is thus virtually put under arrest, though under no charge of misconduct?

I ask these questions only for information. I am no Copperhead. I stand by Government, right or wrong. I uphold the President and all his Secretaries jointly and severally, because they are Government officials, and because it is the duty of every loyal citizen to uphold them. But when they seem to be going wrong, and making blunders, I feel that I ought to lift my own insignificant voice in warning. Mr. Stanton seems to be going very wrong and making a suicidal blunder in these dealings of his with the Medical Bureau. Perhaps he does not fully appreciate the intense interest of the people in the health of the army. The torrent of army relief supplies poured into the depots of your Commission ought to enlighten him on this point. If he appreciate in any degree the intensity of public feeling on this subject, he will be very careful how he offends it. If his sense of official duty compels him to any act which looks like thwarting the Surgeon-General, or interfering with him in his efforts to preserve the health and lives of our sons and brothers, he ought for his own sake to let the people know what are the grounds on which he proceeds, and to let them know it at once. For if the people began to suspect that he is prompted by personal or political feeling, (and such things are whispered,) it will be a blow from which he will never recover.

But I am wholly ignorant of the details of this business, and submit my inquiries to you in hope of a response.

Very respectfully yours,

REPUBLICAN.

We have not space in this issue to answer fully the questions of our correspondent "Republican." There is a justness, earnestness, and pertinency about them, however, that demand a reply, even though it may be brief and imperfect.

The Surgeon-General is virtually exiled to Chattanooga, bereft of his legal prerogative, while ordered ostensibly upon a tour of special inspection.

We cannot, although anxious to do so, find any apology for this action of Mr. Stanton; nor does our inability necessarily imply any want of unconditional loyalty to the "powers that be." If Dr. Hammond has not performed his high functions with honor and success, we agree with "Republican" in demanding that he be subjected to a lawful ordeal; if he has, we agree with him also, in insisting that no artificial, partisan, or unjust obstacle be placed in the way of the immediate reinstallment of the Surgeon-General as the head of that bureau which owes its regeneration and brilliant character to his scientific and honest administration.

From every quarter we hear expressions of respect for Dr. Hammond and his bureau. Sir Henry Holland, on his recent visit to this country, remarked that he had seen nothing during his sojourn that so excited his wonder and admiration as the vastness, completeness, and success of the operations of the Medical Bureau, and the curative touch and administrative power of the Surgeon-General. The foreign journals are constantly giving utterance to spontaneous tributes of applause; and everywhere in our own country, with singular unanimity of opinion, a marked approbation may be heard.

The following, extracted from the *London Medical Times*, October 12th, 1863, is so appropriate, that we give it entire:

"Verily our American cousins seem a strange race. For a long time we have been reading that Surgeon-General Hammond has been working wonders in the Army Medical Department, having restored it from the chaotic and disgraceful state in which he found it, to one of admirable order—an example for that of all other countries. And making allowance for the usual transatlantic exaggerations, he really seems to have done his work well. Appointed by the President, in spite of the old routine custom, over the heads of many seniors, he came to his task full of vigor, in the prime of life, and capable of great physical endurance. With a bold hand, he surrounded himself with trustworthy subordinates, displacing many who he did not think equal to the crisis, and proceeded energetically with his work. Large armies had to be provided for, a system of military hospitals to be organized, the examining boards to be re-

constructed, and an army medical school and museum to be founded. With all these vast and useful works he seems to have succeeded beyond all expectation, and the confidence of the public in the new system of medical organization has been warmly expressed; and yet, by the last accounts, we learn that he has been suspended from his office, and ordered to a distant service, a commission having been appointed to inquire into the conditions and management of his office. No charge against him, or reason for the investigation has transpired."

Indeed, we hear of nothing worthy of record, except calm, intelligent, thoughtful expressions of approval and satisfaction at the course of Dr. Hammond. We presume that the procedure of Mr. Stanton, alluded to above, may be considered as a tentative one, marked by a cautious reading of the popular pulse. We have little doubt that the record of those pulsations will be found of such a character as to lead to the administration of justice.

If we are not entirely and blindly in error, Dr. Hammond will experience no detriment from the secret decisions of *ex parte* inquisitors. The American people have a national fondness for light and justice, and will not willingly or tamely permit a faithful public officer, particularly one who has applied the highest results of professional skill and humanity to the relief of the wounds and diseases of their relatives stricken in battle, to be officially garroted.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME AT NASHVILLE.

The reports from "the Home" at Nashville, Tenn., for the four weeks ending November 28, show that during that period, 351 discharged soldiers, and 408 furloughed, were admitted from 17 different states. The number of meals furnished was 3,819, and the number of lodgings 1,484. The average number cared for each day, was 170. The number of deaths was 4. Transportation was procured for 17; papers were sent back for correction for 4; pay was drawn for 71. The total amount collected and paid over being $9,709.54. The reader will find a plan of the "Home" in the last number of the BULLETIN, illustrating the arrangements by which this work is carried on.

INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONFERENCE.

In the city of Geneva, Switzerland, there recently assembled an International Conference of delegates from several nations of Europe, for the purpose of considering the "*means of providing for the insufficiency of the sanitary service of armies in the field.*" Unlike most of the international congresses that have been convened so frequently in years past, and which have become established institutions in Europe for discussion of social as well as political questions, the Sanitary Conference at Geneva seems to have been a spontaneous and hearty response to the suggestion of a single individual, and he an untitled and unpretending, but earnest-minded citizen.

The nations of Europe were represented as follows:

M. le docteur Unger, from Austria, (Surgeon-in-Chief of the Austrian Army.)
Surgeon-in-Chief Steiner, from Baden.
" Theodore Dompierre, from Bavaria.
" Dr. Lœffler, from Prussia.
" Dr. Basting, from Holland.
" Don. N. A. C. Landa, from Spain,
" Boudier, from France.
M. de Preval, from France.
M. Chevalier, (Consul,) from France.
Dr. Rutherford, (Inspector-General of Hosp.,) from England.
Mr. Mackenzie, (Consul,) from England.
Dr. Oelker, from Hanover.
Major Brodruck, from Hesse.
M. Capello, (Consul,) from Italy.
Prince Henry, XIII., from Prussia.
Dr. G. Housselle, from Prussia.
Capt. Van de Velde, from Holland.
Dr. Gunther, from Saxony.
Capt. Alex. Kirriew, from Russia.
M. E. Essakoff, from Russia.
Dr. Skœldberg, from Sweden.
Dr. Edling, from Sweden.
Dr. Hahn, from Wurtemberg.
Dr. Wagner, from Wurtemberg.
M. F. De Montmollin, from Switzerland.
Dr. Lehmann, from Switzerland.
Dr. Briere, from Switzerland.
M. F. De G. Montmollin, from Switzerland.
Prof. Landoz, from Switzerland.
M. Moratel, from Switzerland,
Dr. Engelhardt, from Switzerland.
M. M. General Dufour, President.
Henry Dunant, Secretary.

After spending four days (October 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th) in very harmonious and earnest discussions upon the main questions that had called them together, they embodied the more definite conclusions of their conference in the following recommendations or resolutions:

"The International Conference, desirous to render aid to the wounded in those cases where the army sanitary service is insufficient, adopted the following resolutions:

"1. That in each country there exist a com-

mittee whose mission is to assist in time of war, if it is required, in providing by all means in its power for the sanitary wants of the armies. The committee will organize itself in such manner as shall seem most useful and convenient.

"2. Sections, without limit in number, may be formed for the purpose of aiding this committee, and which shall act under its general direction.

"3. It shall be the duty of the committee to place itself *en rapport* with the government of its own country, in order that its service may be received, if there is need.

"4. In time of peace, the committees and the sections shall look for the best means for rendering themselves really useful in time of war, especially in preparing material help of all kinds *(secours materiels de tout genre)* and in endeavoring to organize and instruct volunteer nurses, *(infirmiers volontaires.)*

"5. In the event of war, the committees of the belligerent nations shall furnish, according to their means, relief *(secours)* to the respective armies; their particular duty is to organize and set at work the volunteer nurses, *(infirmiers volontaires,)* and to prepare, in accordance with the military authority, the places in which the wounded shall be attended.

"They may solicit the co-operation of the committee of neutral nations.

"6. Upon application and with consent of the military authorities, the committees shall send the *infirmiers volontaires* upon the battle-field; they shall, at such times, be under the direction of the chief military commander.

"7. The *infirmiers volontaires* who follow the army, must be provided by their respective committees with all necessary means for their sustenance.

"8. That in every country, they wear as uniform a white band upon the arm, with a red cross.

"9. The committees and sections of the various countries may assemble an International Congress to communicate the results of their experience, and to consult upon the measures to be pursued in the interest of the work.

"10. The exchange of communications between the committees of the several nations shall be provisionally made through the committee at Geneva.

"*Besides the above resolutions, the Conference expresses the following wishes:*

"A. Let the governments grant their highest protection to the committees of relief which shall be formed, and facilitate as much as possible the fulfillment of their mission.

"B. Let *neutrality* be proclaimed in time of war, by belligerent nations, for the ambulances and the hospitals, and let it be equally admitted, in the most complete manner, for the *personnel* of the sanitary staff, *(personnel sanitaire officiel,)* for the *infirmiers volontaires*, for the country people who may go to assist the wounded, and for the wounded themselves.

"C. Let a uniform distinctive badge *(signe)* be recognized for the sanitary corps of all armies, or at least for the persons of the same army who are attached to that service. Let a uniform flag (*un drapeau identique*) be also adopted for ambulances and hospitals in all countries."

It appears that it was no part of the design of the Geneva Conference to take up any of the great questions relating to the Sanitary care of armies excepting those leading points that relate to the succor of the men who fall in battle—the humane and sanitary provision for the ambulance and field-hospital service; and upon the questions that were raised respecting the necessity or duty of great improvements in that service, the delegates expressed most decided and harmonious sentiments. The presence of such veteran campaigners and military surgeons as MM. BOUDIER, UNGER, BASTING, and LŒFLER, enabled the most experienced class of delegates to present in a strong, but true light, all the essential difficulties that stand in the way of successfully utilizing the offering—*personal and material*—of voluntary aid for the relief and care of the wounded in active armies. The positions taken by the ablest and most experienced members of the Geneva Conference, strongly corroborate and sustain the established policy and works of the UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION.

HENRI DUNANT, a citizen of Geneva, who was traveling as a tourist in the regions occupied by the vast armies that met at Solferino and Magenta, had his soul so stirred by the scenes of carnage and war that he witnessed there immediately upon the cessation of the conflict, that he deemed it a duty to humanity to apply such volunteered aid as he was able to organize and put into operation upon the spur of the occasion. The record of that timely and merciful work is in the hearts of the multitude of mutilated sufferers, who, but for the succor which that noble man and his obedient helpers rendered, would not now be able to recount the scenes of the terrible battle-field of Solferino.

Thus naturally this noble-hearted and earnest man, M. DUNANT, was led by his brief and thrilling experience to reflect upon the practicability of calling into existence an organized, national, and *international* scheme for applying the services of trained corps of voluntary nurses, so as to secure a uniform system, rendered by study and experience superior, if possible, to the hastily extemporized band of voluntary attendants, organized and led by him at Solferino. This

gentleman's little book, entitled "*Souvenir de Solferino,*" embodied many of the results of his study and experience. This unpretending little "Souvenir," accompanied by a circular from the "*Society of Public Usefulness,*" of Geneva, was transmitted to the various Sovereigns and Ministers of War in Europe, and, in response to the invitation of the circular, the Conference assembled.

Several of the questions which were submitted to the Geneva Conference had already been brought before the Statistical Congress at Berlin a month previously.

Unanimous approval was given, in the deliberations of the Conference, to the proposed plan for encouraging the timely preparation of *materiel* for the succor of the wounded, and especially for effectually *organizing* the humane endeavors and charities of the people. Said the distinguished representative of the Government and Army of Prussia: "Behold, gentlemen, the great field of activity for permanent 'Societies of Relief,' organized in time of peace, and prepared beforehand with all suitable means to supply the work of official authorities, and to satisfy the wishes of a truly religious philanthropy."

The medical delegates at the Geneva Conference joined heartily with the non-medical delegates in all the debates and purposes of the Conferences. Their sentiments in reference to such works of life-saving are happily expressed by a French physician, Dr. Henri Navre, who, as a public journalist, has earnestly advocated the objects of the Conference. He writes: "The physician has science, let him confer with the benevolent and sympathetic; let him encourage them with his approbation, and enlighten them with his counsels. *Knowledge will thus heighten the value of benevolence, and the result will be beautiful.*" And justly does that eloquent physician ask: "Is it not the highest mission of the true physician to aid with his professional knowledge the endeavors of the benevolent and self-sacrificing?" Such appears to have been the spirit not only of the medical delegates at the International Conference, but of the various Sovereigns and Ministers of War who sent messages of counsel and encouragement.

There is no difficulty in detecting in the spirit and discussions of the Geneva Conference the germs of great things for the science and art of battle-field relief.

It is very interesting to find them taking up and discussing, *de novo*, a question which the U.S. Sanitary Commission solved nearly two years ago, viz.: How to organize the outside labors of the people for the relief of their relatives and friends stricken upon the battle-field, in such a manner as to secure a commensurate application of aid and comfort, without invading the sphere of military discipline or weakening either the dependence of the soldier upon the military establishment or the sense of responsibility of the medical officers.

Difficulties that the Geneva Conference regarded as very serious and almost impassable, we have met and readily surmounted. We have demonstrated how the spontaneous benevolence of the people may be organized in time of war, so as to carry the offerings of the homes upon the battle-fields, through moving armies, and into military hospitals, without conflicting with the rigid requirements of military discipline. While we feel great interest in again taking up, with our foreign friends, the rudimentary principles of the matter, we regret that the light of American experience did not shine upon the debates of the Geneva Conference.

THE AMBULANCE CORPS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Although the necessity for an ambulance corps, or in other words a trained officered body of men, under military discipline, supplied with all the necessary appliances for the conveyance of the wounded from the spot where they fall to the field hospital in the rear, has been felt ever since the war began, it was not completely organized in the Army of the Potomac until August of last year. It had, however, been previously in process of formation, awaiting full growth and the approbation of the general commanding. Dr. Letterman, the able Medical Director, has been steadily working at the ambulance scheme for more than a year, striving to meet every requirement of humanity without conflicting with military discipline. In this work he has been aided and heartily sustained by Surgeon-General

Hammond, whose thorough knowledge of military hygiene and discipline, all who are at all familiar with the medical history of the war must know. This admirable scheme of organization, set forth in order No. 85, is one of the striking proofs of the professional wisdom and humanity of the medical corps of the Army of the Potomac. It only remains for the Government to adopt for the entire army of the nation a similar organization. Indeed, we know that the Surgeon-General is desirous of carrying throughout the entire army some such uniform plan, and it will not be long before the loud and irresistible expressions of professional and popular approbation for his official greatness and success in this and other medical fields will relieve him from those unjust and odious restraints which now seem to limit the range of his functions, though they cannot, in fact, entirely deprive the sick and wounded national soldier on the field, in the camp, or in quarters, of the fruits of his wisdom and provisionary care. We shall have more to say on this subject.

Order No. 85 is as follows:

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 85. } *August* 24, 1863.

The following revised regulations for the organization of the Ambulance Corps, and the management of the Ambulance Trains, are published for the government of all concerned, and will be strictly observed:

1. The Army Corps is the unit of organization for the ambulance corps, and the latter will be organized upon the basis of a Captain as the commandant of the corps, one 1st Lieutenant for each division, one 2d Lieutenant for each brigade, one Sergeant for each regiment.

2. The privates of this corps will consist of two men and one driver to each ambulance, and one driver to each medicine wagon.

3. The two-horse ambulances only will be used, and the allowance, until further orders, to each corps, will be upon the basis of three to each regiment of infantry, two to each regiment of cavalry, one to each battery of artillery, to which it will be permanently attached, and two to the Head-Quarters of each Army Corps, and two army wagons to each Division. Each ambulance will be provided with two stretchers.

4. The Captain is the commander of all the ambulances, medicine and other wagons in the corps, under the immediate direction of the Medical Director of the Army Corps to which the ambulance corps belongs. He will pay special attention to the condition of the ambulances, wagons, horses, harness, &c., and see that they are at all times in readiness for service; that the officers and men are properly instructed in their duties, and that these duties are performed, and that the regulations for the corps are strictly adhered to by those under his command. He will institute a drill in his corps, instructing his men in the most easy and expeditious method of putting men in and taking them out of the ambulances, lifting them from the ground, and placing and carrying them on stretchers, in the latter case observing that the front man steps off with the left foot and the rear man with the right, &c.; that in all cases his men treat the sick and wounded with gentleness and care; that the ambulances and wagons are at all times provided with attendants, drivers, horses, &c.; that the vessels for carrying water are constantly kept clean and filled with fresh water; that the ambulances are not used for any other purpose than that for which they are designed and ordered. Previous to a march he will receive from the Medical Director of the Army Corps his orders for the distribution of the ambulances for gathering up the sick and wounded; previous to, and in time of action, he will receive orders from the same officer where to send his ambulances, and to what point the wounded are to be carried. He will give his personal attention to the removal of the sick and wounded from the field in time of action, going from place to place to ascertain what may be wanted; to see that his subordinates (for whose conduct he will be responsible) attend faithfully to their duties in taking care of the wounded, and removing them as quickly as may be found consistent with their safety to the field hospital, and see that the ambulances reach their destination. After every battle he will make a report, in detail, of the operations of his corps to the Medical Director of the Army Corps to which he belongs, who will transmit a copy, with such remarks as he may deem proper, to the Medical Director of this Army. He will give his personal attention to the removal of the sick when they are required to be sent to general hospitals, or to such other points as may be ordered. He will make a personal inspection, at least once a month, of every thing pertaining to the ambulance corps, a report of which will be made to the Medical Director of the Corps, who will transmit a copy to the Medical Director of this Army. This inspection will be minute and made with care, and will not supersede the constant supervision which he must at all times exercise over his corps. He will also make a weekly report, according to the prescribed form, to the same officer, who will forward a copy to the Medical Director of this Army.

5. The 1st Lieutenant assigned to the ambulance corps for a Division, will have complete control, under the Captain of his corps and the Medical Director of the Army Corps, of all the ambulances, medicine and other wagons, horses, &c., and men in that portion of the ambulance corps. He will be the Acting Assistant Quartermaster for that portion of the corps, and will receipt for and be responsible for all the property belonging to it, and be held responsible for any deficiency in any thing appertaining thereto. He will have a traveling cavalry forge, a blacksmith and a saddler, who will be under his orders, to enable him to keep his train in order. His supplies will be drawn from the Depot Quartermaster, upon requisitions approved by the Captain of his corps, and the Commander of the Army Corps to which he

is attached. He will exercise a constant supervision over his train in every particular, and keep it at all times ready for service. Especially before a battle will he be careful that every thing be in order. The responsible duties devolving upon him in time of action, render it necessary that he be active and vigilant, and spare no labor in their execution. He will make reports to the Captain of the corps, upon the forms prescribed, every Saturday morning.

6. The 2d Lieutenant will have command of the portion of the ambulance corps for a brigade, and will be under the immediate orders of the commander of the ambulances for a division, and the injunctions in regard to care and attention and supervision prescribed for the commander of the division he will exercise in that portion of his command.

7. The sergeant will conduct the drills, inspections, &c., under the orders and supervision of the Commander of the ambulances for a brigade, be particular in enforcing all orders he may receive from his superior officer, and that the men are attentive to their duties.

The officers and non-commissioned officers will be mounted. The non-commissioned officers will be armed with revolvers.

8. Two Medical Officers and two Hospital Stewards will be detailed, daily, by roster, by the Surgeon-in-Chief of Division, to accompany the ambulances for the Division, when on the march, whose duties will be to attend to the sick and wounded with the ambulances, and see that they are properly cared for. No man will be permitted, by any line officer, to fall to the rear to ride in the ambulances, unless he has written permission from the senior Medical Officer of his regiment to do so. These passes will be carefully preserved, and at the close of the march be transmitted by the senior Medical Officer with the train, with such remarks as he may deem proper, to the Surgeon-in-Chief of his Division. A man who is sick or wounded, who requires to be carried in an ambulance, will not be rejected, should he not have the permission required; the surgeon of the regiment who has neglected to give it, will be reported at the close of the march, by the senior surgeon with the train, to the Surgeon-in-Chief of his Division. When on the march, one-half of the privates of the ambulance corps will accompany, on foot, the ambulances to which they belong, to render such assistance as may be required. The remainder will march in the rear of their respective commands, to conduct, under the order of the Medical Officer, such men as may be unable to proceed to the ambulances, or who may be incapable of taking proper care of themselves until the ambulances come up. When the case is of so serious a nature as to require it, the surgeon of the regiment, or his assistant, will remain and deliver the man to one of the Medical Officers with the ambulances. At all other times the privates will be with their respective trains. The medicine wagons will, on the march, be in their proper places, in the rear of the ambulances for each Brigade. Upon ordinary marches, the ambulances and wagons belonging to the train will follow immediately in the rear of the Division to which it is attached. Officers connected with the corps must be with the train when on the march, observing that no one rides in any of the ambulances except by the authority of the Medical Officers. Every necessary facility for taking care of the sick and wounded upon the march, will be afforded the Medical Officers by the officers of the ambulance corps.

9. When in camp, the ambulances will be parked by Divisions. The regular roll-calls, reveille, retreat and tattoo, will be held, at which at least one commissioned officer will be present and receive the reports. Stable duty will be at hours fixed by the Captain of the corps, and at this time, while the drivers are in attendance upon their animals, the privates will be employed in keeping the ambulances to which they belong in order, keeping the vessels for carrying water filled with fresh water, and in general police duties. Should it become necessary for a regimental Medical Officer to use one or more ambulances for transporting sick and wounded, he will make a requisition upon the commander of the ambulances for a Division, who will comply with the requisition. In all cases when ambulances are used, the officers, non-commissioned officers and men belonging to them, will accompany them; should one ambulance only be required, a non-commissioned officer as well as the men belonging to it, will accompany it. The officers of the ambulance corps will see that ambulances are not used for any other purpose than that for which they are designed, viz., the transportation of sick and wounded, and in urgent cases only, for medical supplies. All officers are expressly forbidden to use them, or to require them to be used, for any other purpose. When ambulances are required for the transportation of sick or wounded at Division or Brigade Head-Quarters, they will be obtained, as they are needed for this purpose, from the Division train, but no ambulances belonging to this corps will be retained at such Head-Quarters.

10. Good serviceable horses will be used for the ambulances and medicine wagons, and will not be taken for any other purpose except by orders from these Head-Quarters.

11. This corps will be designated for sergeants, by a green band 1½ inches broad around the cap, and chevrons of the same material, with the point toward the shoulder, on each arm above the elbow. For privates, by a band the same as for sergeants around the cap, and a half chevron of the same material on each arm above the elbow.

12. No person except the proper Medical Officers, or the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of this corps, will be permitted to take or accompany sick or wounded to the rear, either on the march or upon the field of battle.

13. No officer or man will be selected for this service except those who are active and efficient, and they will be detailed and relieved by Corps Commanders only.

14. Corps Commanders will see that the foregoing regulations are carried into effect.

By command of Major General Meade:
S. Williams, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

The following excellent comments on the above were addressed to the *New York Times*, and published a fortnight ago by "an army surgeon."

The interest which professional men and others have lately shown in an ambulance system for the Union armies, renders it worth while to present to those who may have any share in devising a new scheme, the system now existing in the Army of the Potomac. It is no design of the writer to present this without any defects—or to discourage the zealous and laudable efforts of the men who are desirous to mitigate the sufferings of the sick and wounded soldiers. The object is merely to show them what exists—in order to enable them to remedy its defects, if they observe any—to devise one upon it as a model—or to organize a scheme entirely new and better.

I.—ORGANIZATION.

The organization of the ambulance corps of this army, as given above in General Order, No. 85, Headquarters Army of the Potomac, is as follows: First, the corps is the unit, and the supreme control of the ambulances, as regards their use, is confided to the Medical Director of the army corps.

The ambulances are in the proportion of three to a regiment. Three men are assigned to an ambulance—one driver and two stretcher-bearers. This gives nine men to a regiment, who are commanded by a non-commissioned officer, mounted. The above constitutes the regimental ambulance corps, which, consolidated by brigades, are commanded by a 2d Lieutenant. The brigades are consolidated into divisions commanded by a 1st Lieutenant, who, consequently, has under his command two 2d Lieutenants, fifteen Sergeants, and one hundred and thirty-five men. The three divisions consolidated make the corps commanded by a Captain, under the immediate command of the Medical Director. Add to the above, one light medicine wagon, (Autenrieth's,) and one four-horse supply wagon for each brigade, and you have the full ambulance armament independent of the regimental hospital wagons.

II.—AMBULANCE CAMP AND DISCIPLINE.

The ambulances encamp or park by divisions, and where there are efficient officers, the camp is formed equal to an artillery camp as to the order and discipline of the men, the grooming of the horses, and in all the appliances necessary to keep animals and wagons always effective. Minute inspections by the proper officers are made weekly; negligence, slovenliness or unsoldierly conduct, are punished with the same rigor as in any other arm of the service. The drilling practice of the men is, of course, conducted with a view to their efficiency in their own department.

III.—MARCHING IN ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS.

When a movement is ordered, the sick are taken up by the train of their respective divisions, the regimental hospital wagons are ordered to join the trains, and thus the whole of the hospital appliances of each division, in one compact column, follows close upon its own division, under the command of the Ambulance Officer. Two medical officers, with steward and nurses, are detailed to accompany the train and to take charge of the sick in it. Upon halting, hospital tents to the number sufficient to accommodate the sick, are pitched, a hospital is rapidly established, all the aid necessary being rendered by the ambulance corps. The train and hospital are close to the camp of the division. This plan is continued day after day in a protracted march.

IV.—IN BATTLE.

The train, as above stated, follows close upon its division. When a battle is expected, and the division deploys into line, the train halts in the rear. Now comes the most difficult and trying time of handling an ambulance corps effectively. Those who are interested in devising a system of ambulances must not forget in their theories without experience, this critical time, must bear in mind that without competent and tried officers, without men held under the strictest military rule, their finest scheme will prove a failure, at the time when the services of the ambulance corps are most demanded. The plan of handling the ambulance corps in an action, I can present to them from experience in all the battles fought since the present ambulance system was adopted.

In the first place, the stretcher-bearers march with the regiments to which they belong into the action. The Medical Director, with the Captain of the ambulance corps, are with the General commanding the corps at the front. As soon as the positions into which the divisions in battle will be thrown are ascertained, the Medical Director communicates with the Surgeon-in-Chief of Division, designating the places where the division hospitals are to be located. These hospitals are composed of the hospital tents in the division, together with a house or barn, if available. The ambulances are drawn up between hospitals and the division in front, awaiting orders. One officer of the ambulance train is with the Division Commander, one non-commissioned officer with each brigade. The Medical Officers who accompany the regiments into action take position by brigades, in some sheltered location contiguous to their respective brigades. This position is known to the Sergeant watching the brigade, who directs the wounded with stretcher-bearers thither. The ambulances are ordered up to the same place, to take the wounded to the division hospitals in the rear.

The officer at division headquarters, as soon as the action begins, orders up the ambulances and designates the point to which they are to go. He learns from the Medical Director or corps officer, the various positions and shifting of the troops, and acts accordingly. In this manner the operations of the ambulance corps are conducted throughout the action, and subsequent to it, until all the wounded are removed from the field to the division hospitals in the rear, where they receive professional and all other treatment necessary. I abstain from any description of the division hospitals in the field, my object being to exhibit the ambulance system as it is, and as it has worked in this army. From more than a year's experience in the hard-fought engagements of this army, I can affirm that I have not known wounded to lie on the battle-field two hours after their injuries were received. I must, of course, except the battles of last May, on the south side of the Rappahannock, where the field remained in possession of the enemy; but even there, in one engagement attended with success, I have seen over one thousand wounded within the hospitals of one corps two hours after the battle was over.

I beg to assure men now interested in devising an ambulance system, that any scheme of theirs which will place men in an ambulance corps, not subservient to the strictest military rule, not bound to march as soldiers under fire, with their regiments, will prove a failure. Remove once from officers and men of this corps the conviction that they are soldiers, bound to share the dangers of their comrades in a fight, and the whole scheme—no matter how perfect in form and organization—will prove a disastrous failure, at the very critical time of battle. Civilian nurses were once sent to the army and proved a nuisance; an ambulance corps with any of the civilian privileges and rights about it, will prove a still greater.

Senator Wilson will, ere this reaches our readers, have introduced a bill organizing the ambulance corps for the whole army.

The following are its leading provisions:

1. The supervision of all ambulances, medicine wagons, &c., is vested in the Medical Director or chief medical officer of each army corps.

2. One Captain, one First Lieutenant for each division, one Second Lieutenant for each brigade, one Sergeant for each regiment, three privates for each ambulance, and one private for each medicine wagon, shall be detached by each corps Commander, the officers and non-commissioned officers of such corps to be mounted.

3. Three two-horse ambulances are granted to each regiment of infantry, two to each regiment of cavalry, one to each battery of artillery, two to the headquarters of each army corps, and two army wagons to each division.

4. The fourth section prescribes the duties of the Captain of the corps, and directs the establishment of a drill in service for removing sick and wounded, requiring the exercise of gentleness and care under strict and particular orders of the Medical Director and the Secretary of War.

Sections five and six prescribes the duties of other officers of the corps.

7. The Surgeon-in-Chief of the division is required to detail two medical officers and two hospital stewards to accompany the ambulances when on the march.

8. The use of ambulances is prohibited for any purpose except the conveyance of the sick and wounded, and for medical supplies only in urgent cases.

9. No persons other than those connected with the ambulance corps are allowed to remove the sick and wounded.

NOTES ON NURSING.

VENTILATION.

Do you ever go into the bed-rooms of any persons of any class, whether they contain one, two, or twenty people, whether they hold sick or well, at night, or before the windows are opened in the morning, and ever find the air any thing but unwholesomely close and foul? And why should it be so? And of how much importance it is that it should not be so? During sleep, the human body, even when in health, is far more injured by the influence of foul air than when awake. Why can't you keep the air all night, then, as pure as the air without in the rooms you sleep in? But for this you must have sufficient outlet for the impure air you make yourselves to go out; sufficient inlet for the pure air from without to come in. You must have open chimneys, open window or ventilator; no close curtains round your beds; no shutters or curtains to your windows, none of the contrivances by which you undermine your own health or destroy the chances of recovery of your sick.

A careful nurse will keep a constant watch over her sick, especially weak, protracted, and collapsed cases, to guard against the effects of the loss of vital heat by the patient himself. In certain diseased states much less heat is produced than in health, and there is a constant tendency to the decline and ultimate extinction of the vital powers by the call made upon them to sustain the heat of the body. Cases where this occurs should be watched with the greatest care from hour to hour, I had almost said from minute to minute. The feet and legs should be examined by the hand from time to time, and whenever a tendency to chilling is discovered, hot bottles, hot bricks, or warm flannels, with some warm drink, should be made use of until the temperature is restored. The fire should be, if necessary, replenished. Patients are frequently lost in the latter stages of disease from want of attention to such simple precautions.—The nurse may be trusting to the patient's diet, or to his medicine, or to the occasional doses of stimulant which she is directed to give him, while the patient is all the while sinking from want of a little external warmth. Such cases happen at all times, even during the height of summer. This fatal chill is most apt to occur toward early morning at the period of the lowest temperature of the twenty-four hours, and at the time when the effects of the preceding day's diets is exhausted.

Generally speaking, you may expect that weak patients will suffer much more in the morning than in the evening. The vital powers are much lower. If they are feverish at night, with burning hands and feet, they are almost sure to be chilly and shivering in the morning. But nurses are very fond of heating the foot-warmer at night, and of neglecting it in the morning, when they are busy. I should reverse the matter.

All these things require common sense and care. Yet perhaps in no one single thing is so little common sense shown, in all ranks, as in nursing. With private sick, I think, but certainly with hospital sick, the nurse should never be satisfied as to the freshness of the atmosphere, unless she can feel the air gently moving over her face, when still.

But it is often observed that the nurses who make the greatest outcry against open windows, are those who take the least pains to prevent dangerous draughts. The door of the patients' room or ward *must* sometimes stand open to allow of persons passing in and out, or heavy things being carried in and out. The careful nurse will keep the door shut while she shuts the windows, and then, and not before, set the door open, so that a patient may not be left sitting up in bed, perhaps in a profuse per-

spiration, directly in the draught between the open door and window. Neither, of course, should a patient, while being washed or in any way exposed, remain in the draught of an open window or door.

The extraordinary confusion between cold and ventilation, even in the minds of well-educated people, illustrates this: To make a room cold it is by no means necessarily to ventilate it. Nor is it at all necessary, in order to ventilate a room, to chill it. Yet, if a nurse finds a room close, she will let out the fire, thereby making it closer, or she will open the door into a cold room, without a fire, or an open window in it, by way of improving the ventilation. The safest atmosphere of all for a patient is a good fire and an open window, excepting in extremes of temperature. (Yet no nurse can ever be made to understand this.) To ventilate a small room without draughts, of course requires more care than to ventilate a large one. Another extraordinary fallacy is the dread of night air. What air can we breathe at night but night air? The choice is between pure night air from without and foul night air from within. Most people prefer the latter. An unaccountable choice. What will they say if it is proved to be true that fully one-half of all the disease we suffer from is occasioned by people sleeping with their windows shut? An open window most nights in the year can never hurt any one. This is not to say that light is not necessary for recovery. In great cities, night air is often the best and purest air to be had in the twenty-four hours. I could better understand in towns shutting the windows during the day than during the night, for the sake of the sick; the absence of smoke, the quiet, all tend to making night the best time for airing the patients. One of our highest medical authorities on Consumption and Climate has told me that the air in London is never so good as after ten o'clock at night.

Always air your room, then, from the outside air, if possible. Windows are made to open; doors are made to shut—a truth which seems extremely difficult of apprehension. I have seen a careful nurse airing her patient's room through the door, near to which were two gas-lights, (each of which consumes as much air as eleven men,) a kitchen; a corridor, the composition of the atmosphere in which consisted of gas, paint, foul air, never changed, full of effluvia, including a current of sewer air from an ill-placed sink, ascending in a continual stream by a well-staircase, and discharging themselves constantly into the patient's room. The window of the said room, if opened, was all that was desirable to air it. Every room must be aired from without—every passage from without. But the fewer passages there are in a hospital the better.

If we are to preserve the air within as pure as the air without, it is needless to say that the chimney must not smoke. Almost all smoky chimneys can be cured—from the bottom, not from the top. Often it is only necessary to have an inlet for air to supply the fire, which is feeding itself, for want of this, from its own chimney. On the other hand, almost all chimneys can be made to smoke by a careless nurse, who lets the fire get low and then overwhelms it with coal; not, as we verily believe, in order to spare herself trouble, (for very rare is unkindness to the sick,) but from not thinking what she is about.

In laying down the principle that the first object of the nurse must be to keep the air breathed by her patient as pure as the air without, it must not be forgotten that every thing in the room which can give off effluvia, besides the patient, evaporates itself into his air. And it follows that there ought to be nothing in the room excepting him, which can give off effluvia or moisture. Out of all damp towels, &c., which become dry in the room, the damp, of course, goes into the patient's air. Yet this "of course" seems as little thought of, as if it were an obsolete fiction. How very seldom you see a nurse who acknowledges by her practice that nothing at all ought to be aired in the patient's room, that nothing at all ought to be cooked at the patient's fire! Indeed the arrangements often make this rule impossible to observe.

If the nurse be a very careful one, she will, when the patient leaves his bed, but not his room, open the sheets wide, and throw the bed-clothes back, in order to air his bed. And she will spread the wet towels or flannels carefully out upon a horse, in order to dry them. Now, either these bed-clothes and towels are not dried and aired, or they dry and air themselves into the patient's air. And whether the damp and effluvia do him most harm in his air or in his bed, I leave you to determine, for I cannot.

Even in health, people cannot repeatedly breathe air in which they live with impunity, on account of its becoming charged with unwholesome matter from the lungs and skin. In disease where every thing given off from the body is highly noxious and dangerous, not only must there be plenty of ventilation to carry off the effluvia, but every thing which the patient passes must be instantly removed away, as being more noxious than even the emanations from the sick.

Of the fatal effects of the effluvia from the excreta it would seem unnecessary to speak, were they not so constantly neglected. Concealing the utensils behind the vallance to the bed seems all the precaution which is thought necessary for safety in private nursing. Did you but think for one moment of the atmosphere under the bed, the saturation of the under side of the mattress with the warm evaporations, you would be startled and frightened too!

The use of any chamber utensil *without a lid* should be utterly abolished, whether among sick or well. You can easily convince yourself of the necessity of this absolute rule, by taking one with a lid, and examining the under side of that lid. It will be found always covered, whenever the utensil is not empty, by condensed offensive matter. Where does that go, when there is no lid?

Earthenware, or if there is any wood, highly polished and varnished wood, are the only materials fit for patients' utensils. The very lid of the old abominable close-stool is enough to breed a pestilence. It becomes saturated with offensive matter, which scouring is only wanted to bring out. I prefer an earthenware lid as being always cleaner. But there are various good new-fashioned arrangements.

A slop-pail should never be brought into a

sick room. It should be a rule invariable, rather more important in the private house than elsewhere, that the utensil should be carried directly to the water-closet; emptied there, rinsed there, and brought back. There should always be water and a cock in every water-closet for rinsing. But even if there is not, you must carry water there to rinse with. I have actually seen, in the private sick room, the utensils emptied into the foot-pan, and put back unrinsed under the bed. I can hardly say which is most abominable, whether to do this or to rinse the utensil *in* the sick room. In the best hospitals it is now a rule that no slop-pail shall ever be brought into the wards, but that the utensils shall be carried direct to be emptied and rinsed, at the proper place. I would it were so in the private house.

Let no one ever depend upon fumigations, "disinfectants," and the like, for purifying the air. The offensive thing, not its smell, must be removed. A celebrated medical lecturer began one day, "Fumigations, gentlemen, are of essential importance. They make such an abominable smell that they compel you to open the window." I wish all the disinfecting fluids invented made such an "abominable smell" that they forced you to admit fresh air. That would be a useful invention.—*Miss Nightingale.*

CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.

The pathology of this disease—ulceration of both small and large intestines—points out the proper treatment. You must nourish the patient with food that is easily assimilated. He should take plenty of eggs—tender beef steak, mutton chops—*good stale bread*—sweet milk—and but very few if any vegetables; green tea (genuine) and *not coffee*. He should always lie down after eating; walking would be injurious, but riding in a carriage, or rail-car, beneficial.

Thorough mastication of the food must be insisted on. The drink should be hot tea, not cold water; whiskey or malt liquors only in case of extreme emaciation and weakness. He should lie down flat on his back while in doors—and ride in wheel carriages when in the open air.

The best medicines are oil of turpentine ten drops every four hours, or ¼ gr. nitrate of silver in one drachm of glycerine every four hours, or twenty five drops of laudanum at bed time, (*when it does not nauseate*, or *nothing.*)

A writer in the *London Medical Times and Gazette* for Oct. 31st, 1863, speaking of the influence of drainage and good water upon the health of cities, says, that in the case of Salisbury, Eng., the average annual number of deaths for the last eight (8) years preceding the completion of the drainage, (excluding the cholera year,) was 243, or 27 in 1,000, and for the same period since 193, or 21 in 1,000, *an actual reduction of almost one-fourth of the whole number.*

☞ The price of the work on "The U. S. Sanitary Commission," noticed in our last, and published by Messrs. Little & Brown, was erroneously stated to be 75 cents. It should have been $1.25.

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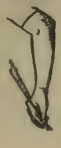
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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

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For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, andwhere he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, JANUARY 15, 1864. No. 6.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

We shall publish, in our next, extracts from the proceedings of the quarterly meeting of the Commission, now being held in Washington.

"WHY DOES THE SANITARY COMMISSION NEED SO MUCH MONEY?"

If the people furnish supplies liberally without cost, and if the storehouses and treasuries of the various Branches of supply are full, how is it that the Central Treasury of the Sanitary Commission calls for and disposes of so much money? This is a plain question, honestly asked; and there is a plain and honest answer. It is this: a large amount of money is needed, because the present machinery of the Commission, which is supported by the Central Treasury, cannot be kept in motion without a very large cash expenditure; and the judgment of sagacious, humane, and carefully calculating men, to whom the whole matter has been submitted, decides, without qualification, that all this machinery must be kept a-going—that large as its cost is, the results for good which depend upon it are so much larger, that the Commission, as the trustees of the people's bounty and representatives of their benevolence, the executors of their will, could not find a justification in allowing the expensiveness of the system to cause its discontinuance until a fair statement of their intention to discontinue it, and the reason why they intended to do so, should have been laid before the people, and the question put, Shall the Sanitary Commission, or shall they not, go on with this work in all its breadth, involving this annual expenditure? Shall they drop all other branches of their work, and limit themselves to the charge of merely "distributing the supplies" which are sent to them; or shall they keep up their entire system, embracing, with this distribution of supplies, sanitary inspection by medical men, of camps and of field hospitals; sanitary inspection, by medical men, of general hospitals; special relief, with all its agencies, and in all its various departments; the hospital directory, with its register, and its 500,000 names?

The fact of the case is this, that the work of distributing supplies to the sick and wounded, while of course it involves much expense, is but one of five directions in which the Sanitary Commission are laboring to ward off disease and death from the soldier, to insure speedy recovery, to relieve the anxiety of relatives at home, to make the dear-bought experience of regiments already long in the war, available to regiments just entering the field. Part of this work suggested itself and grew up as the Commission went on, but most of it entered into the original plan of the Commission, which was based upon the idea that what the army needed from outside itself, was not merely additional clothes, and food, and care in times of emergency, but a better understanding of the conditions for securing health, and more urgent inducements with more constant constraints and influences to lead to a regard for every possible law which would guard against or check disease. Hence the whole department of "Sanitary Inspection" was established in field and hospital, involving large expense, and to the casual observer producing no very important results,—in the whole of its work making less show of re-

lief or aid to the soldier than would be made by the distribution of one wagon load of supplies to wounded or dying men—yet in its actual effects probably saving more lives to the army and to friends at home than has ever been done by the distribution of any five hundred wagon loads of these same supplies.

The Special Relief department also involving now in its constant enlargement a heavy and increasing outlay, is one of the branches of the Commission's work which has very little to do with supply distribution, and was not indeed embraced in the original plan of organization. Yet this same Special Relief work with its "Lodges" and "Homes" all along the Atlantic coast, on the shores of the Mississippi, and inland, wherever an army is found, could not be given up to-day without to-morrow and each following day exposing to manifold evils, at least three thousand men who now are protected.

So of the "Hospital Directory," with its agencies for giving prompt and accurate information to those at home concerning the sick and wounded throughout the army; this involves large expense, so much so that a few months since those who hold themselves responsible for the right use of the money put into their hands by the people, almost decided that they had no right to continue this branch of the Commission's work, which after all was not for the aid of the soldiers so much as for the relief of the anxious solicitude of friends; but when the proposal to give it up was discussed, it was found that there was an immense pressure from "the people," demanding the continuance of this servant, and friend, and comforter of theirs. This too had grown up, not as part of the original plan of the Commission, and surely in nowise connected with the distribution of needed suppli s, but it had come out of an urgent call of the people that those who in their name were helping the soldiers in the field, should now also help them at home—the fathers, wives, and mothers—by answering their inquiries about the sick and wounded. Thus it was that this Hospital Directory, with all its aids for securing and transmitting information, had sprung up out of the demands of the people, and the people ask to be and are called upon to defray the expense of its continuance.

Such is the history, brought down to the present time, of those four departments of the Commission's labor, additional to the work of "Supply Distribution." The cost of maintaining these four departments with the largeness which the interests of half a million enlisted men, and half a million homes ask for, and with the thoroughness which wise economy unites with medical science in demanding, cannot be less than thirty thousand dollars each month. And it is with the express understanding that to such use this much of the money will be appropriated, that funds are asked for and contri buted to carry on "the work of the Commission." The detail of these expenditures in each one of these branches is open for examination, and the result of such examination by careful business men, who have themselves contributed largely to the very money thus used, and who measure also the work which is done, is this: Those men say, the Sanitary Commission would be false to duties assumed, and to duties providentially laid upon them—false also to the people, whose work this really is—false likewise to the age which gives the opportunity for just this work of filling up generously a great page of a nation's history—an opportunity given at just this time, the one year out of a century—false to all this, they say, would the Commission be if it did not persevere and carry on all these agencies for good, confidently and unhesitatingly asking the people for whatever money is really needed, with fit economy, for the work.

Thus it is that the "Central Treasury," from which all these departments of the Commission's work draw their support, needs constant renewal, although the Branches of supply (lately so amply furnished by the proceeds of the "Sanitary Fairs" held in various sections of the country) may be stored to overflowing with goods and money.

But the whole ground is not covered by this statement. All persons employed by the Commission in every part of the vast field draw their pay from the Central Treasury. Moreover, it has become the settled policy of the Commission to employ

paid agents. A large experience, with a jealous regard to a right and economical use of funds entrusted to their care, has convinced the Commission beyond question that in a work continuing thus for years, the only wise method is to employ the best men that can be obtained, with compensating pay; that thus only can be secured continued and experienced labor, (one of the most important of all things in this work)—systematic effort—a sense of responsibility to those in authority—entire yielding up of time and strength to the service—and a right on the part of the officers of the Commission to remove any person from the service who may prove to be incompetent or ill suited to the work. Under the volunteer system of agency, which may answer well where a comparatively narrow field is covered, and for a work which is limited to weeks or months—none of these absolutely essential ends can be secured. And although this work of the Sanitary Commission is a benevolent work, and its benefits are gratuitous to those who receive them, yet it has to be conducted in its large labors with *thorough business method.* This, too, is to be borne in mind, that this system of paid agents does not exclude the advantage of having in the work disinterestedness and religious earnestness. On the contrary, many men of just those characteristics, and who because of the spirit which was in them entered into the work, are now retained among the paid agents; they were men who could give a few months to the cause, but were not justified in giving years. And in selecting persons additional to be employed, the aim of the Commission is always to get men whose hearts are there before their hands are called to take hold.

But once more, the Central Treasury is drawn upon, not only for maintaining the various departments already named, and for the pay of all the persons employed by the Commission east and west—some two hundred men, including its corps of Medical Inspectors—but also for the purchase of such supplies as are needed in emergencies where there is no time to send to distant Branches and storehouses. In this way after a single battle, sometimes fifteen or twenty thousand dollars are used, every single dollar of which probably helps to meet some real want or to save a life. From the Central Treasury also comes the money which maintains in the field with each army corps independent means of transportation for carrying with the army as it moves and distributing there sanitary supplies. This is the system now adopted by the Commission. There is also the expense incurred of purchasing horses and wagons with which to transport supplies from the nearest depots to battle-fields. This expense is often very large, but it has more than once proved of incalculable benefit, enabling us to reach the wounded with our stores on the field, long in advance of the Government stores. For, as is well known, according to existing laws, the Medical Department can draw supplies, but is utterly powerless as to ordering them forward to the field, there being *no independent transportation* at the control of that Department. The Medical officer is obliged to make over his supplies to the Quartermaster's Department for transportation, where, with the immense burden which is heaped up there, there is often an unavoidable delay which is death to the wounded who are waiting upon the field. So long as this law continues, by which the hands of the Medical Department are thus tied, "so long"— as one of the Medical Bureau recently said, a member of the Regular Army—"is there an absolute necessity that the Sanitary Commission stand ready with its *independent transportation* to carry forward at the earliest moment supplies to the battle-fields."

Such is an enumeration of some of the principal demands which the Central Treasury of the Sanitary Commission must always be prepared to meet. In their aggregate these demands call for a monthly deposit in the Treasury of forty thousand dollars.

Such is the record, and the record is the appeal. It asks whether the people wish this agency in behalf of the soldiers in tent and in hospital, and on the battle-field—at the east, and at the west, and at the south—to cease; or whether it is their will to have it continue in its largeness of plan, its scientific exactness, its thoroughness of detail, i s. promptness in meeting emergen-

cies, its ability to do all that the friends at home would themselves desire to do for our soldiers. If the people say it must still go on with its work, then must they contribute liberally not only to the Branches, and to the local sources of supply, but also to the Central Treasury of the Commission; and as long as the war continues, so long shall a full record be furnished to them.

NEW YORK, January 7, 1864.

MY DEAR MR. OTIS: I acknowledged by telegraph to-day, your great contribution of $50,000, being the January and February installments of California's support of the Sanitary Commission.

I had the pleasure of opening your letter, with its now well-known and welcome handwriting, in the presence of half a dozen leading merchants of New York, who happened to be in the office at the time on other business; and could you have heard their tributes to the loyalty and generosity of your noble State, it would have repaid you for your long and devoted attention to our interests, and partly paid the people of California for their magnificent behavior. The constancy and methodical liberality of the Pacific Coast to our Sanitary Commission as their almoner, is our chief dependence. You will hear a great deal of the vast Sanitary Fairs at Chicago, Cincinnati, Boston, Buffalo, Albany, Washington, at which very large sums of money are raised, and you may very naturally think that it must be high water in our Central Treasury! It is important that the people of California should understand that all this money is fitly expended by the Branches themselves *in the purchase of supplies*—which supplies are forwarded to our receiving depot for distribution. But the whole cost of distribution, with the men, wagons, horses, and machinery of every kind which transports supplies and makes them useful and saving to the army, all these accumulated comforts and necessaries falls upon our Central Treasury; which has more to do, and is more indispensable, precisely according to the amount of supplies that are furnished to it. The more money the Branches have, the more supplies we have; and the more supplies we have, the more it *costs* to forward them, distribute and supply them to our vast army, scattered over our wide country.

All the money and all the supplies that could be raised and furnished would be as useless to the army without us, as the rains on the hill sides of the Croton River would be to the city of New York, if the city had not built an expensive aqueduct; which accumulates, economizes, and distributes, by an intricate and costly system of mains, and gates, and trainers, and pipes, and stop-cocks, this water to every house, every kitchen and chamber, every wash-bowl and pitcher and mouth in New York!

The United States Sanitary Commission is the aqueduct, with its enormous pipes of supply, and its diversified pipes of distribution, now laid down over the whole field of war, and maintained, with all the necessary breakages and changes of position and spread of operations, from Texas to Kentucky; from Kansas to Virginia; from the Potomac to the Rio Grande; from Portland to Charleston, and Fernandina, and Ship Island; from Chicago to Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Cairo, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and wherever the army stays or goes. Understand, then, that the wealth of the Branches is indispensable to the soldier's relief, but that their wealth only makes us poor—by giving us more to do and nothing to do it with! We are like a stage company, with an immense number of passengers, but left without forage for our horses, or horses for our coaches; or, rather, we should be so if California did not make herself the great motive power for the Central Machinery of the Sanitary Commission, and thus furnish horses and forage, by which our overflow of passengers (the supplies!) are all expeditiously transported to their destination, (the sick and wounded, or the naked and hungry soldiers!) Don't strain what I say too far. We are not so ungrateful as to say that the nation has left us without support for our Central Machinery; for we have received into our Treasury about a million of dollars: but of this million, the Pacific Coast has supplied us with nearly $700,000, leaving only $300,000 to come from the rest of the nation! The Atlantic States are waking up to this disproportion, and a wholesome emulation is aroused. They are now pre-

paring a great National Metropolitan Fair at New York, for the benefit of the Central Treasury of the Commission, which will come off late in March; at which they hope, at one blow, to raise perhaps a half million of dollars, and so equalize the contribution of the Atlantic with the Pacific! I rejoice at this holy jealousy. I have told our able and rich men that if they wished the United States Sanitary Commission to throw itself into the arms of its devoted friends in California, and depend *wholly* on her liberality for the support of its Central Machinery, that we were not afraid of the result; that the newspapers from the interior of that State and from Oregon and Washington Territory, as well as private letters, were all assuring me of the devoted and unstinted sympathy and pride of the Pacific Coast in the unexampled work of mercy and love that they had made so largely their own; and that the nation this side the Rocky Mountains had only to give us one cold shoulder, or to indicate its fatigue at our dependence upon her, to make us very sure of having the whole heart, and as much of the golden and silver veins as we needed, of your young and generous wealth, put at our disposal! But our people are too wise and shrewd to allow you to appropriate this privilege exclusively to yourselves!

The United States Sanitary Commission, our Central Board, originated, designed, and set in motion all this now vast machinery, both in the homes and peaceful States, where supplies are accumulated, and in the field, where they are distributed. Its operations are on too vast a scale, its relations to this war too momentous, its record too honorable, its work and principles too deeply wrought into the tender experiences and grateful memories of nearly a million of men, who in the field and in the hospital have at one time or another had their hunger and nakedness, their wounds and fatigues, their sore feet and bleeding limbs, ministered to by this Institution, not to make the sagacious and fore-looking think, that the time is coming, after the hurry of this war is over, when the question will be carefully asked, who planned, who worked, who supported this United States Sanitary Commission, who supplied the brains, and who the heart and who the *money* by which this the largest, most successful, and most beneficent charity which Christian history has ever seen, was set a-going and kept a-going? There are even people who begin to foresee that the political value of a good record in this Commission, is worth careful consideration. Now, the loyal North and West, numerous as the demands which the bounties and the supports of soldiers' families and all the other local expenses of the war make upon them, do not mean to be behindhand in their support of the Commission. They are beginning to see, too, that it is not enough to make their record perfectly clean to support merely the home branches generously, for they foresee that when a due consideration is given to the subject, it will appear to all that the Central Machinery, the Sanitary Commission proper, recognized by the Government, co-ordinated with the medical department, welcomed and trusted by the generals, loved and relied upon because alone known and seen by the soldiers themselves in hospital and camp, is the final heir of whatever interest, or national glory, or gratitude this movement has awakened, as it is the sole condition of the actual serviceableness of the branches themselves. Accordingly, the country here is beginning to say that California must not run away with all this gratitude of the soldiers, must not fasten on herself the eyes of the whole world and all future history, as the head nurse of the great American army in its memorable and glorious war for the permanent establishment of our national liberties. We hope, at least, that this is the growing feeling. We earnestly and fondly desire to make our support *national*, to draw no more from the Pacific than from the Atlantic. We are anxious to see the account squared, and as much in the scale, the centre being the Rocky Mountains, which hangs on this side, as on yours when the war terminates. If, however, we are disappointed in this hope, we shall not be discouraged; for we shall not be without *your* enthusiastic, *your* ever growing and evermore gracious and cheerful support. If I were not properly and sincerely jealous of my own Atlantic region, and did not for her own sake, and for the sake of her future honor and dig-

nity, wish to see her abreast with the Pacific, in this truly national enterprise, I should not hesitate a moment to fling the Commission and the soldiers, sick and wounded, on your exclusive nursing and care. I believe you would do it; I know you would do it. But I will not consent to relinquish to California this imperishable honor, which would give her a political and moral pre-eminence above her sisters for all times, without a struggle for New York and Massachusetts, and Ohio and Illinois, and Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, and every other loyal State in our cis-alpine region. But if the hour ever comes when the Central Machinery of the United States Sanitary Commission loses energy and efficiency through the neglect of its patrons and supporters here at home, you may be sure that we shall not see the beautiful and effective system we have matured impaired or abandoned, on any scruple of local or Atlantic pride. No! we shall seize the telegraph wire, attached to the hearts and the coffers of California, and give it such a pull as will be felt in every store, and house, and hut, and mine, and ranche, and heart, and hand in all your region; and at once, from the other end of that magic wire, will begin to drop into our treasury those big, golden heart-drops, which so many times have raised our nearly exhausted reservoir—the rich blood of California's patriotism and humanity poured out like water to assuage the wants and sufferings of our noble army. With our hand on the telegraph wire that ends in your rich hearts and mines, we can patiently and calmly wait the decision of the loyal people of these Golden States. Let them say, "We are tired of your demands; turn to friends less drawn upon than we are," and we shall click at once our despair here and our hope in you, with a faith that will never be shaken, that all the silver and the gold in your mountains must be exhausted before California denies one request of ours made in the name of our sick and wounded patriots. But that hour is not come, and I hope and believe it never will come. I am, however, in any and all events, gratefully and affectionately yours, for the army and the homes and the cause and the Commission, HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*

SANITARY MATTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

On arriving at Newbern, I sought the depot of the Commission, and was welcomed by Dr. Page, the gentlemanly inspector of that district, whose services in the department of the South have secured for him a reputation for probity and efficiency which is doubtless merited.

The district allotted to the doctor covers a wide range, embracing in all sixteen general and post hospitals, including a convalescent camp. To all of these stores have been supplied upon the requisitions of the surgeons, and I am happy to know that the most cordial relations exist between the surgeons and the Commission, and that they co-operate most earnestly to promote the well-being of our troops. During my visit it was my privilege to accompany Dr. Samuel McCormick, the Medical Director of the Department, whose inquiries into the condition of the hospitals were thorough and accurate. It was equally pleasing to notice the readiness with which the Medical Director of the post and his associates not only responded to the investigations of their superior officers, but were anxious to make a full exhibit of all the affairs intrusted to them. Dr. Page accompanied the Medical Corps, and the occasion presented a cheering evidence of the unity and fellowship existing between the surgeons and the Commission, and their joint efforts to aid each other in the great work of promoting the comfort of our soldiers.

The Stanley Hospital at Newbern, the Mansfield at Morehead City, and the Hammond at Beaufort, are the chief in size and importance. The two first are erected on the pavilion plan, and are well ordered in all respects. Dr. McCormick directed the use of China table furniture where tin was used, because of its wholesome moral influence upon the troops. It is more homelike, and promotes the reflection that the Government is careful for the comfort and well-being of its defenders.

During the siege at Washington, N. C., the agents of the Commission were on hand with their varied stores, and their usefulness is a matter of record. All the hos-

pital transports were well supplied with the means for "aid and comfort" from the depot at Newbern. About forty regiments have been under inspection, and I judge, from an examination of many of their camps, that they are well policed in most regards. I was particularly impressed with the substantial and comfortable appearance of many of the camps. Log houses, with *glazed windows* and open fire-places, are common. The regimental hospitals are generally comfortable and well supplied.

In the marshy district between Newbern and Morehead City, and on the line of the railroad between these two places, there are several encampments, in which there has been much sickness. At Newport barracks, especially, the men have suffered from intermittent fevers. It is unsafe to allow the same troops to remain long at a time at this point. *The quinine ration has been used freely, and in some localities with marked advantage.* If company officers were held to strict account as to the care of their men, and were required to inspect each one daily, with reference to underclothing especially, cleanliness, the use of prescribed prophylactic means, the temperature and ventilation of quarters, &c., I am satisfied much sickness would be prevented. It is not unfrequently remarked that some companies in the same camp are more sickly than others, and the difference is doubtless owing to the difference in the attention and care given to the men by their officers.

Last year, the scurvy commenced among the troops in this district as early as July; and though it did not prevail to an alarming extent, it was sufficiently prevalent to indicate the importance of adopting means for its prevention this year. If some of the land now vacant in the vicinity of Newburn could be granted by the Government for garden purposes, under the management of the Commission, I am satisfied it would be a great blessing to the army in that region. The land is a sandy loam, with an alluvial sub-soil, containing large quantities of shells and other marine deposits; which, if brought to the surface as a fertilizer, would greatly increase its productiveness, and insure large crops of early vegetables. The ground might now be prepared for onions, which would be ready for use in April. Beans would ripen in May; tomatoes in June; and large supplies of carrots and potatoes might be gathered at various times during the growing season, and a considerable crop stored for winter use. The expense and labor of conducting such small farms as would be necessary to supply the several posts on the coast, would be very small, compared with the immense advantage that would accrue to our troops.

The prisoners of war, confined by rebel authorities, have also been the recipients of aid from our agents in this department; and the cases of individual relief afforded refugees and to soldiers needing transportation, &c., are not a few. Mr. Geo. B. Page acts as the relief agent, and is an earnest worker in the cause.

I should be intruding upon the province of the intelligent representative of the Commission in North Carolina, if I attempted to furnish for your readers the incidents and details which were observed, as they will be presented in his official report; but this hasty sketch is cheerfully submitted.—*Dr. Parrish's Report.*

THE CINCINNATI FAIR.

The Cincinnati Sanitary Fair having the experience of those of Boston and Chicago to profit by, seems to have outdone them both in the variety of its devices for the raising of money, and in the products of the sales. It was opened with speeches from General Rosecranz, Bishop McIlvaine, General Carey, and other notables, national and local. The work fairly started, the number of things that were done to secure its success defy all description or enumeration. There was an Autograph Committee, whose business it was to hunt down celebrities all over the country, and extort from them something in their own handwriting that would satisfy the public craving for this species of curiosity. Of Dr. Wendell Holmes, of Boston, they required that he should be funny "over his own signature," for this special occasion; and difficult as it is to make people laugh to order, he *was* funny accordingly. There has, we venture to say, been nothing in this walk of comicality equal to the following epistle since the list of book-titles

which Thomas Hood made out for the Duke of Devonshire :

BOSTON, December, 14, 1863.

DEAR SIR : You ask me for a list of questions in Natural History, with answers subjoined, for the use of the Instructor. I submit a few, which, I think, will serve your purpose for the proposed examination of the Scientific Class:

"1. What animal produces one of its own parents?

"Answer.—The beaver, which is well known to construct its own *dam*.

"2. Is the Dodo extinct?

"Ans. It is not, as shown by the following bill in my possession :

"'Mr. ——— to X———.	Dr.
One mongrel goose	$3 00
One " "	3 00
	$6 00

"3. What is the largest quadruped?

"Ans.—The *mole* of Adrian.

"4. What is the lightest quadruped?

"Ans.—The lynx. The lynx weighs less than an *ounce*.

"5. When does a horse stand on six legs?

"Ans.—When he stands on his *fore* legs and his two hind legs also.

"6. What other insect is the bee afraid of?

"Ans.—The beetle—(scare-a bee-us.)

"7. Is the otter of roses obtained from that animal when fed on other vegetables—cabbages for instance?

"Ans.—Probably. The musk deer furnishes his perfume when fed on *water* melons.

"8. What instance can you give of the cunning of serpents?

"Ans.—The simple fact that they secrete their venom where they can find it when wanted.

"9. Why do the above questions amuse you more than the answers?

"Ans.—Because the person who asks the question is the querist.

"As to the other questions about which you ask my opinion, my answer must be brief.

"Eighteen hours' study out of the twenty-four is too much, I think, for delicate young persons. It does not allow sufficient time for sleep, recreation, and meals.

"I doubt about the introduction of capital punishment as a part of the ordinary college discipline. It will have a good effect on the survivors, no doubt.

"OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES."

There was a "Committee on Trees," whose business it was to dress Christmas trees, and large numbers of them, we need hardly say, were disposed of. There was a Horticultural Department, and it was filled with flowers and plants from various parts of the State. There was a Refreshment Hall, and it was supplied in lavish abundance with every variety of edible, from every place in the neighborhood. The city and its vicinity was divided into districts, and each district covered the tables with cooked dishes of all kinds on a particular day assigned to it—coffee, oysters, turkeys, ducks, chickens, hams, tongues, beefsteaks, cakes, fruits—and a hundred ladies waited on the guests. There was a Ladies' Bazaar, in which almost every thing that ladies can either devise or manufacture, or that they or gentlemen are at all likely to require, was exposed for sale. There is hardly any art or manufacture that was not represented at it, and hardly any department of industry in the West which did not contribute to it. And though last, not least, there was an Art Gallery, containing all the most valuable pictures to be found in Cincinnati or its neighborhood, lent by their owners for the occasion. It must not be forgotten, too, that as we remarked in our last, Cincinnati, young as it is, possesses a collection of pictures and engravings such as only one or two other cities in the Union can boast.

The proceeds of the fair are already calculated in the rough at $200,000. This is a large advance on that of Boston, and a still larger on that of Chicago, and is doubtless due to the experience gained by the example of these cities, as well as to the growth of the enthusiasm which the success of the earlier efforts in this direction have inspired. There is, of course, very little doubt that New York will produce a result in money which will far surpass that of all the other fairs put together, and there is no reason why it should not.

But our readers will find, on our first page, a full, and it is to be hoped a convincing explanation of the fact, that all these fairs, so far from lightening the pressure on the central fund of the commission, increase it.

Dr. E. A. Crane, under date of Dec. 26, 1863, says of the national forces at New Iberia: "The sanitary condition of the army is remarkable. I have never seen in any of our armies so little disease. But little over *four per cent.* (4.3) of the present force is on sick list. Only 5.4 per cent. have been reported sick, including those sent to General Hospital since Oct. 1st. The highest rate obtains in the cavalry division, as most of the picketing now falls upon it. One division of the army reports only 1.4 *per cent. sick.*"

Dr. Crane attributes this remarkable freedom from sickness to "light duties, *fair rations, including sweet potatoes, and an abundance of fresh meat, and a healthy climate.*"

SHALL CALIFORNIA BE ALLOWED TO SUPPORT THE SANITARY COMMISSION?

There seems a probability that if the Atlantic States do not bestir themselves, they may find that California will take the whole work of maintaining the Commission out of their hands. The question already seems to be, not whether she is ready to undertake the task, but whether our self-love, or sense of duty, will allow it to devolve upon her. At a large meeting held in San Francisco a few weeks ago, Mr. William T. Coleman said:

I was somewhat surprised to see that a public announcement was made that a few individuals, mentioned by name, including myself and "other distinguished speakers," should address this meeting. It is scarcely necessary for me to say, that public speaking is not my forte; and I little expected that my name would be announced, as it was, when I consented to come here. Fortunately, the cause requires no eloquence; and, if it did, the requirement would be satisfied by the circulars of the Committee, and the reverend gentleman who is to make the closing speech. It was cheering to Californians in the East, to witness the emulation and spirit caused by the contributions of our state to the Sanitary Fund. Never did a people gain so much at so small a price. The donations coming in a bulk, appeared to be large, but, really, this State has given very little, in comparison to others. The loyal States of the East have all been called upon for contributions in many ways not witnessed here. There were soldiers to be fitted out, wounded soldiers to be received on their return, help to be sent to the battle-field, and appeals were made at every corner. People have not stopped to inquire any thing, save whether the sufferer was a soldier and in need. The Government provided arms and ammunition in abundance, but hospital supplies were lacking; the cause was in danger of great loss by neglecting wounded men in the field and in the hospitals. Then it was that California blazed up suddenly with a brilliant, a golden light, and our State gained a name of which Californians, with all their vanity, may well be proud. Though the Eastern States have given much more, their gifts were not in one large stream, but in numberless rivulets—by States, by cities, by villages, by societies. The treasurer of no eastern association has had the satisfaction of sending $100,000 at one time. But if California should give $100,000 per month, she would not give any more than her share. Congratulate yourselves that you have so little to do, but take care to do it well. This State ought really to bear the entire expenses of the Sanitary Commission. Let us send them more than they ask. We could do it and never miss it. The attention and favor of the Sanitary Commission are not limited to any class of soldiers. No lines are drawn of nativity, or of shades of religious or political opinion. Officers of the Commission do not turn their backs on wounded rebels, but supply their wants also, and God grant that they make better men. There were, not long since, 2,500 sick and wounded rebels at New York, and they were not neglected. The Sanitary Commission has saved more lives and spared more suffering, than any other effort of that kind ever made. I now ask you, fellow-citizens, to again come forward with your contributions and subscriptions. Your wealth is increasing at a rate unequalled in the world, and this great charity is ready to relieve you of part of the responsibility and burden. Send fifty bars of gold and a hundred of silver, through Wells, Fargo & Co., by way of steamer, to the Sanitary Commission, with the compliments of California, and you will strengthen the well with confidence and renewed zeal, and the wounded will find their cup sweeter and their beds softer, while they bless the Golden State. [Applause.]

The San Francisco *News Letter and Mining Journal*, commenting on this, says:

Why should not California assume the entire expenses of the Sanitary Commission? She is able to do it—she should be willing. Why? Through the Sanitary Commission alone can our people adequately and effectively give expression to their loyalty and generous patriotism. We are not called upon to sacrifice our sons on the battle-field, in the swamps, and on the tables of the army surgeons. Our homes are not draped in mourning for their noble manhood turned to dust in the deadly conflict. We are favored of Heaven and of men. Why, then, as our flesh and blood are spared, our property secure, our hearts and hearths safe from the desolation which has hung crape on nearly every door in the Eastern States, should we not willingly, voluntarily, reply to the appeal of the Sanitary Commission? Go on with your glorious work—we will furnish you the means. This shall be our contribution for nationality, liberty, and charity! Our citizens have heretofore given liberally, munificently. Sam. Brannan is reported to have given a thousand dollars recently. That was noble. That was probably not equal to his income for two days, yet it was generous and worthy. Ah, how many at the East would gladly give their entire revenue for two months, could that buy for their property and homes the immunity and prosperity enjoyed by our people! Let our State then take up the support of the Sanitary Commission. Its forces shall be California's army. The sick and wounded saved through our gifts shall be the crown of our glory, the laurels of our victories. Let us make the name of our State a synonym for generosity, which every soldier's heart shall bless whenever he hears it uttered.

It would certainly be a very noble thing for California to do, but it would not be a noble thing for us to allow her to do it. The expenses of the Commission, it must not be forgotten, have so far been regulated rather by its receipts, than by the extent of the work before it. It has never yet done half what it might have done, if it had more money; and if its income were double what it has ever yet been, it would still be

compelled to stop far short of meeting all the demands on its stores and on its energy. Consequently, no matter how much California may give, there will still be a vast amount of suffering left unrelieved, if the East does not likewise do its part.

HELP FROM ABROAD.

Everybody knows, although we possess no statistics on the subject, that there is hardly a city of any size or interest in Europe, which does not possess a colony of Americans, who have gone abroad either to study, themselves, or to educate their children, or to engage in business, or in quest of health, or simply to enjoy themselves. They are to be found in London and Paris by the hundred, in Florence, Rome, Munich, Dresden and Berlin, Baden and Pau, by the dozen, and are nearly all, especially those who are permanently resident in these places, persons of wealth, or, at all events, in very easy circumstances. They are, generally, remarkable for the facility with which they adapt themselves to foreign manners and customs, but are equally remarkable for the tenacity with which they cling to their nationality, and the eagerness, and almost ostentation, with which they proclaim it. Their love of their country, and interest in its fortunes, in fact, as has been proven by their demeanor during the war, seem to gain intensity in the direct ratio of their distance from it. No Americans have been so zealous in their support of the Government, so uncompromising in their loyalty to the Union, as those whose lot has, since our troubles commenced, been cast in foreign lands; and their zeal in its defence has probably been quickened by the fact that they have found themselves for nearly three years, on the continent as well as in England, incessantly engaged in repelling the attacks on the national cause, which, strange to say, most foreigners, for some time past, seem to take special delight in making, whenever, either in steamboat, train, hotel, or even in ordinary social intercourse, they find themselves in the company of Americans.

It has long been a subject of regret that this patriotic fervor of the Americans abroad could not be made to display itself in something more substantial and serviceable than a wordy warfare at dinner tables and in cafés, and that some means could not be provided that would enable them to share in that work of succoring and comforting the armies in the field, in which everybody at home is in one way or other engaged. We are glad to say that this want has at last been supplied by the establishment in Paris of an organization to be known as the "EUROPEAN BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION." It has been started under the auspices, and in a great measure owing to the exertions of Dr. McClintock, the Minister of the American Chapel in the Rue de Berri, aided by a number of active and patriotic Americans, either temporarily or permanently resident in the French capital—and there are a large number of such. They have appointed a Secretary, hired offices, collected money, and are establishing branches in all the places most frequented by Americans in other parts of Europe, and have placed themselves already in communication with, and under the control of, the Sanitary Commission here. Money they hope to be able to send us in considerable sums—that is, considerable for the number of persons from whom it will have to be collected; and offer at the outset to contribute to our stores what it is difficult, if not impossible, to procure here, except at very high prices—a quantity of very fine and perfectly pure brandy. We are in hopes that they may be able to do much in collecting and forwarding contributions to the New York Sanitary Fair from the various European countries. There is one service which they will undoubtedly render, which though perhaps not so immediate in its results, may be of more permanent benefit to the country than any other, by the diffusion of information in Europe touching the medical and sanitary aids which the nation has provided for its armies during this war. There is certainly nothing in our history, or in our actual social condition, entitling us to so high a place in the scale of civilization, as our efforts to save life during the last three years; and they only need, we are quite satisfied, to be more widely known, in order to secure for us a wider and more lasting renown than will ever be won for us by our armies. How little they

are yet known in Europe is, however, revealed by the fact, that at the Sanitary Conference which recently met at Geneva, Switzerland, and was attended by all the leading army surgeons and sanitary reformers in Europe, and of the proceedings of which we gave a summary in the last number of the *Bulletin*, no mention whatever was made, nor did any thing seem to have been heard by the members of it, of the fact that the United States Sanitary Commission had for over two years been engaged in the successful prosecution of the very work of which the Conference met to discuss the possibility; no mention of the fact that we had rendered, through three campaigns, that very aid to the largest army in the world, of which they spoke in all their discussions as a new, unfamiliar problem; no mention of the vast, complicated, and yet perfectly successful organization by which this aid has been afforded; no mention of the great mass of facts of the highest interest, and of the completest novelty, bearing on this whole question of the sanitary condition of armies in the field, which we have collected and collated, and which are to be found in the documents which we have for the last three years been scattering broadcast over the country. Of course, this extraordinary omission, this strange spectacle of scientific men meeting to discuss, in the heart of Europe, the possibility of constructing a machine which had been for years in successful operation only a fortnight's distance from where they sat, was due simply to ignorance. We owe it to the cause of science and humanity, therefore, not less than to our own fame, to see that this ignorance is removed by a wider diffusion in Europe of the printed records of our labors, and this the "European Branch" will aid us materially in doing.

OUR DOINGS IN WASHINGTON.

The agency established by the Commission for the purchase of supplies for the hospitals in Washington, last summer, of the nature and object of which a full explanation will be given in No. 4 of the *Bulletin*, has now been in operation six months, and the report of the agent shows the total weight of the supplies purchased in Philadelphia and delivered in Washington during that period, as taken from the manifests of the Express Company, was 1,738,331 lbs., or 869 tons 331 lbs. This includes the weight of the boxes, barrels, &c., in which the supplies are packed for shipment.

The cost of the above supplies in Philadelphia, delivered to the Express Company, was	$87,361.10
Amount paid Express Company for Transportation,	11,380.06
Amount paid to purchasing agent in Philadelphia,	2,192.82
Amount paid for office and expenses in Philadelphia,	1,567.02
Amount paid in Washington for insuring,	721.21
Total amount of cost when ready for delivery to the hospitals	113,222.21

Although there was considerable complaint made at the first by the stewards as to various articles furnished, and also the prices of some of the supplies, we are convinced it was partly from the fact that it was a new work, and that we started before we were fully ready, and before there was a definite understanding between the purchasing agent in Philadelphia and the agent in this city, who was assigned to this duty, as was supposed, only temporarily.

As a rule, the surgeons of the hospitals seem perfectly satisfied that the supplies which they receive through the Sanitary Commission are of better quality, and at a much less price, than they could have obtained the same in the markets of this city.

Some of the stewards of the hospitals still get a large amount of their supplies in the Washington market; and one of the reasons that led the Sanitary Commission to undertake this work was, to prevent the stewards from receiving a per cent. from the dealers there.

If the order issued by the Medical Director to the surgeons of the hospitals, bearing date of June 23d, 1863, in which he says: "The Surgeon-General directs that the purchase of such supplies will be made by you from no other source, except in cases of emergency," was obeyed to the letter, there is little doubt that the men in the hospitals would get a larger amount of fresh food than they can if the stewards are allowed to purchase elsewhere, and in this way reducing the hospital fund lower

than it would have been had they purchased through the Commission.

If the hospitals were all fully supplied by the Commission, it would be no extra expense, either in purchasing or in insuring, as the force which is necessary to do the amount of work now done, could do what extra work there would be from the increase of orders.

From the reports of other departments of our labor at Washington, we find that the organization for procuring soldiers' pay, in connection with Lodge No. 4, has been at work during the quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1863, with the following results:

Whole number of cases taken	457
Number completed by securing certificates of pay	291
Number completed in which no certificates were granted	80
Total number of completed cases	371
Total number of incompleted cases	86
Amount represented by completed cases	$12,201.00

And the "Home," at the same place, has, during the same period, given food, shelter, and assistance, in the following number of cases:

Whole number admitted	1,576
" lodged	9,954
" of meals furnished	24,885
Number admitted to the hospital	198
Number of deaths in hospital	8

Of the extent to which all parts of the Union are benefited by this department of our labors, and of the jealous and watchful indifference—if we may use the expression—to all distinctions of birthplace, status, or political creed, with which it is carried on, some idea may be formed from the following table. There is but one valid claim on the assistance of "The Home"—that is, sickness, or destitution, or friendlessness, caused by the war:

Maine	59	Delaware	29
New Hampshire	46	Pennsylvania	202
Vermont	46	Maryland	16
Massachusetts	164	Dist. of Columbia	13
Rhode Island	24	Ohio	16
Connecticut	40	Indiana	20
New York	102	Illinois	10
New Jersey	15	Wisconsin	46
Iowa	1	Michigan	95
Minnesota	6	Regular army	77
Missouri	14	Invalid corps	32
Colorado	1	Q. M. Department	25
Political prisoners	4	Nurses	2
Citizens	10		

HOW THE REBEL PRISONERS FARE.

The subjoined communication from one of our inspectors on the condition of the rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, Md., is a very emphatic rejoinder to the counter charges of ill treatment and starvation with which the Richmond papers are now seeking to cover up the misconduct of their own officials with regard to our men. When we last wrote on this subject, there was a good deal in the sanitary condition of the camp at Point Lookout that admitted of improvement. In other words, there was a want of thorough policeing, though not greater than is occasionally seen in our own camps, where officers are inattentive to one of their most important duties. This has now been remedied, and the fact with regard to the prisoners' increase in weight, which our inspector produces, proves beyond question that physically the condition of a Confederate soldier in our custody is much better than it would be if serving in the ranks of any of his own armies. And this is something that nobody will regret. Nothing can aid better in breaking down the military power of the Confederacy, which is now, beyond question, all that remains of the rebellion, than the kind treatment of the men who fall into our hands. Any thing like retaliation for the cruelties inflicted on our prisoners at Richmond, would only be excusable on the ground that it was necessary to secure a mitigation of their sufferings. Resort to it, for any other reason, would not only evince a want of self-respect on our part, but would be exceedingly bad policy.

General Butler has, we believe, sought to fortify his position in the negotiations now pending for an exchange of prisoners, by the affidavits of several rebel non-commissioned officers, touching the food and clothing of the prisoners, and we are informed their tenor is very similar, and on some points stronger, than that of the reports of our agents.

I have the honor to enclose six hundred (600) reports of individual inspection of prisoners of war at this point. My work goes on well. On the whole, I think the prisoners are satisfied with their rations and the treatment they receive from the officers having them in their charge.

Some interesting facts are developed in the course of my work. When I commenced this

inspection here, I was struck by the fact, that nearly every man examined, expressed surprise at his not weighing more; it was quite usual for them to say, "I have lost twenty, thirty, or fifty pounds." As an inducement to the men to be examined, I have permitted them (having been already examined) to use the scales, the dinamometer and spirometer, whenever they are not in use. The result is, I find they have almost uniformly increased in weight and strength. This with the fare and comforts of a "Yankee prison!" Many of them appreciate the luxury of having plenty of "Uncle Sam's hard tack" and salt pork, and express themselves determined never to go back to Rebeldom and short rations.

Under the excellent management of Surgeon Thompson, the camp hospital is very much improved, and the whole camp presents a much better appearance than that of a few weeks since. It is better arranged, better *policed*—better in every respect. Scurvy has nearly "made its disappearance." I think the condition of the rebels in the hands of the United States will compare *very favorably* with that of our men in Richmond, allowing that the reports received from there are four-fifths exaggerated.

I hardly think our men in "Libby" and "Castle Thunder" are *growing fat* on rebel rations.

THE PROTECTIVE WAR-CLAIM AGENCY IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Protective War-Claim Agency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission had its origin in the desire to effect a prompt settlement of the claims of soldiers and their relatives upon the Government, and to afford protection against the exorbitant demands too often made by claim agents. The measure met with the cordial approval of the departments at Washington, whose labors it tended to facilitate by diminishing the opportunities for the prosecution of fraudulent claims. A board of managers was organized, and an examining surgeon and solicitor were appointed in May, 1863, and, in the same month, an office was opened in the building occupied by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, at No. 1307 Chestnut street, Philadelphia. The result has fully demonstrated the value of the enterprise. Without any special effort to call public attention to the work of the agency, nearly one thousand claims were presented to it in the first six months of its operation, and the business has shown each month a steady increase. Two-thirds of these claims were preferred by soldiers coming from all parts of the loyal States, who had been honorably discharged from the United States service by reason of wounds or sickness incurred therein, and the remainder were made by the relatives of deceased soldiers. In addition to its regular work of prosecuting claims for pension and bounty, the agency has been instrumental in obtaining their descriptive lists for soldiers who had lain months in hospital without pay for want of those papers, and in correcting, through the aid of its correspondents at Washington, errors in the final statements of discharged soldiers, which would otherwise have occasioned them serious loss. By an arrangement with the paymaster, Major Taggart, and the United States District Attorney, the back pay due prisoners of war at Richmond is also procured for their wives or mothers upon sufficient proof being made of such captivity and of the claimant's identity. These matters are all adjusted and payments made without any cost to the applicant, except a trifling fee paid to the magistrate for executing the necessary affidavits. The saving thus effected to parties who are, in nearly every case, of very limited means, may be computed already at thousands of dollars. A few instances, selected at random, will effectually prove this: A woman, residing in Philadelphia, whose husband died in the service about eighteen months ago, applied, shortly after his death, to a firm doing business as claim agents, who engaged to procure her pension and bounty for the sum of ten dollars; at the end of eighteen months they handed over to her the amount of her claim for bounty, less a charge of twenty-five dollars for their services, and then told her that they had overlooked her claim for pension altogether. Another lady, the widow of an officer, to whom large arrearages were due, but whose claim required very little proof, and that of the simplest sort, and was promptly adjusted by the department, was forced to pay ten per cent. to a claim agent, whom she had employed for its collection. Although a severe penalty is imposed by the act of July 14, 1862, where the charge by an attorney for prosecuting a pension claim exceeds the sum of five dollars, the provision is often evaded, by charges for additional papers, which are seldom requisite if the claim is originally properly prepared.

One great hinderance to the satisfactory adjustment of claims for the bounty and back pay of soldiers dying in the service, and it is feared, to the work of enlisting recruits, is found in the tedious process to which those claims are subjected before final action upon them is had at the Second Auditor's Department. At least a year usually elapses from the date of the soldier's death before the bounty and back pay remaining unsettled can be secured to his widow or children. This period is usually the one in which his loss is most felt, pecuniarily, by his family. Legislation upon this point,

either in the way of increasing the force of clerks in the departments charged with the settlement of these claims, or in that of simplifying the accounts of the army, is imperatively needed. To alleviate, in some degree, the distress occasioned by this delay, it is designed to set apart a sum from the funds of the Commission, from which to advance small sums in very necessitous cases, upon claims on file at the agency; but the relief thus afforded, it is manifest, must be very meagre and inadequate.

The value of the Protective War-Claim Agency must be evident from this statement of its purposes and principles. If any further evidence of its right to the confidence of the soldier, and the friends of the soldier, were needed, it would be found in the character of its officers. Mr. Wm. H. Tilghman is the Chairman of the Committee, and among its directors are Horace Binney, Jr., Alexander Brown, William Welsh, Hon. J. J. Clarke Hare, Charles J. Stille, Benjamin Gerhard, Wm. L. Rehn, George Trott, George D. Parrish, George M. Connarroe, H. Lennox Hodge, M. D., and Atherton Blight. Mr. William M. Ashman is the Solicitor of the Agency. The institution has been quietly doing a good work for some months, and we think it right that the public should fully know it.

Another branch of the same institution is at work in New York, as our readers will see by reference to the advertisement in our columns.

DRESS AND HYGIENE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

Whatever errors are conspicuous in the dress of the army and the volunteer force, may be traced mainly to a neglect of those hygienic considerations suggested by the duties peculiar to the soldier and the volunteer. The former is sacrificed to decorate sartorial effects; the latter has too commonly sacrificed himself by adopting an attire which is but a mongrel version of the dress of the soldier of the line, lacking the relief derived from brilliancy of color and ornamentation, and equally unsuited for active service in the field. What can be more lamentable, from an æsthetical point of view, than a volunteer regiment composed of the long and the short, the meagre and the stout, the angular and the rounded, clad in tight-fitting and straight-cut trowsers? Fitted only for the well-formed, no dress more fully brings into prominence all the ugliness of the ill-formed; dependent upon the integrity of the stiff lines originally devised and set up by the tailor, and not on easily and gracefully flowing folds, for such beauty as it possesses, none is more unsuited for the rough wear and tear of campaigning.

That complete diffusion of body and limbs on the ground, which is a necessity of proper rest after marching or fighting, is an impossibility while the body and extremities are so tightly girthed; and comfort in squatting on the hams or kneeling is to be obtained only by reckless indifference to the original formation and integrity of the inexpressibles.

It needs but a glance at the condition of dress of the regular soldier off duty at nightfall, in in the field, in camp, or in barracks, to see that the tight-fitting tunic and straight-cut trowsers were devised only for the erect position. Every button unloosed, to secure some degree of freedom to his limbs, he is the very antithesis of the orderly, well-set locomotive uniform which most gratifies the eyes of the martinet.

The loose jacket with which the soldier is permitted to indue himself in the intervals of duty is not merely a hygienic requisite, but it is also necessary as a preventive of mutiny.

Previous to the Crimean war, the soldier, sartorically regarded, was simply looked upon as a tailor's block, and not as a living sentient being. It was anticipated that the inquiries of the Royal Commission of 1857 on the sanitary state of the army, would give the *coup de grace* to this perverted notion. Certainly they led to the excision of that portentous decoration and illimitable expenditure of braid and gaudy worsteds, which had previously constituted the highest expression of military æsthetics.

But the great principle by which the Commission sought to ballast the sartorial vagaries of the Horse-Guards has proved far less effective than was to have been desired. "Too much importance," said the Commission, "cannot be attached to an easy adjustment of the clothing, so as to leave to the respiratory and other organs of the body, as well as to its muscular development, the utmost freedom." Six years have elapsed since this important opinion was enunciated, yet we find a recent committee of officers formed for the purpose of simplifying the equipment of the soldier, occupied chiefly with the following questions: The substitution of a loose serge-jacket for the tight-fitting and uncomfortable shell-jacket, now in use for summer and ordinary field days; the selection of a forage cap of presentable aspect and comfortable for wear, the Kilmarnock cap in use being as difficult to "set up" and keep in order as starched linen, and when set up, destructive of mental and cranial comfort; removing the useless hand-slash of the tunic, and giving a larger and more comfortable sleeve. Other al-

terations in dress and equipments are proposed, all tending to ease somewhat the bound-up limbs of the unhappy soldier. Is there no military Teufeldrockh to show that ease and freedom, durability and military smartness and handsomeness, are not inconsistent with each other, and may be combined in one attractive whole?

The recent Royal Commission on the Indian army approached the subject of dress with great diffidence. Admitting there had been great improvements of late years, it gave a qualified approval to the present dress of the European soldier in the tropics, and limited its suggestions to the under-clothing, the head-dress, and the boots. It urged that the use of a light flannel garment next the skin should be made imperative—an admirable suggestion, if the texture of the material be such as not to make its adoption a torture.

The form and structure of the boot were justly animadverted upon. The English gentlemen's broad-soled, broad-toed, flat-heeled walking shoe or boot, is the perfection of a covering for the foot, in form, ease, and utility. Why, then, should our soldiers be condemned to the present wretched shapeless abortions of ammunition-boots? The head-dress, murderously perverted too often at home, is of pre-eminent importance in India. It would be impossible, probably, to suggest any thing to surpass in ease, comfort, or elegance, a modification of the turban; but the conventional sartorial notions of the military mind seem to interpose an insuperable obstacle to its adoption. The wicker-work helmet now in use in India affords considerable protection to the head against the sun's rays; but several improvements are suggested by Mr. Julius Jeffreys, F. R. S., of the Bengal army, to which the Commission directs particular attention. "He proposes to make the outer shell of the helmet double, with a ventilated space between the layers, and within the shell there is a lining to fit tight to the head, leaving another ventilated space between the inner surface of the shell and the wearer's head.

The object of the contrivance is to insure the passage upwards of two distinct currents of heated air between the outer shell of the helmet and the head. In order to diminish the power of the outer shell to absorb the sun's rays, the inventor proposes to cover it with a thin, highly-polished metallic surface. The fatal objection to this helmet is its ungainly aspect.

It is a curious and somewhat inexplicable fact, that Mr. Merret's ingenious "Ventilating Gusset" should not have received the attention of the Commission. The advantages proposed to be derived from this invention are best set forth in a report on an experimental trial made with it in the 7th Royal Fusiliers, stationed at Ferozepori. The commanding officer, in his official report, states that the gussets had the effect of preventing an accumulation of perspiration; they kept the parts they covered cool and clean, and they strengthened the garment. Few things are more obnoxious during active or practical exercise in hot weather than profuse perspiration in the arm-pits, overheating and irritation of the cleft of the buttocks, and chafing of the upper part of the thighs. The remedying of these evils must be a boon to the civilian as well as the soldier. Many of the former have already certified to the efficacy of Mr. Merret's invention in bringing about this desirable result, and it is to be trusted that the military authorities will subject it to wide experiment with the latter.—*Lancet.*

THE GREAT BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND FAIR.

We publish below a circular prepared by the Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Committee of the great Sanitary Fair, and also a full list of the committees appointed to carry its objects into effect:

CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir: In the terrible conflict now being waged for the preservation of our Government and Nationality, every thing belonging to our personal, social, and political welfare is at stake, and the brave and gallant men in arms are perilling their lives, and giving up the comfort and joy of their homes in our stead. They fight these hard battles for us. They endure severe exposure for us. They are wasting away in the filth and starvation of rebel prisons for us. And, when stricken down by the diseases of the camp, or wounded and maimed in the field, they have a right, sanctioned by every patriotic and humane consideration, to expect the nation to come to their succor. The United States Sanitary Commission, by its most disinterested and gratuitous labors, has proved itself the wise, prompt, faithful, reliable, and sufficient agent of the nation in this regard; and, therefore, by a Fair, to be opened on the birthday of the Father of his Country, the 22d of February next, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, we purpose and confidently expect to secure from the city, and the entire island, a contribution of at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to its treasury. The inspiring examples of other cities, Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati, should excite among us an honorable emulation. Let it be seen that in this great national crisis we are at least as generous, self-sacrificing, and resolved, as the foremost of them. This enterprise has been undertaken at the instance of the Woman's Relief Association and the War Fund Committee of this city. As an earnest of the spirit which has prompted it

and will carry it through, we point to the fact that at a meeting of the General Committee, on the 19th ult., twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars were subscribed on the spot—an amount already increased to forty thousand dollars. As a further pledge that the enterprise shall not fail, we subjoin the names of those of either sex who have consented to share its management; with those of the various sub-Committees, who are responsible for the complete working of the several departments of the Fair. We appeal to our fellow-citizens and noble women here and throughout the island, and to those elsewhere who may fairly be expected to sympathize with us in our undertaking, to lend their aid by personal efforts and by the largest contributions of material and money, of agricultural produce, of the fruits of manufacturing and mechanical skill, of works of art, of any thing and every thing from their industry, ingenuity, or abundance, which may swell the grand result for which we look.

Further particulars in relation to the arrangements for the Fair will be made known as early as possible, by circulars from the several special committees, and by other documents from the Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, any desired information in regard to the Fair may be had of the Corresponding Secretary, either by personal application at the rooms of the War Fund Committee, 16 Court street, daily, Sundays excepted, between the hours of 9 and 11, and 3 and 5; or by mail to his address; or, for ladies, at the Depot of the Woman's Relief Association, 30 Court street.

FREDERICK A. FARLEY, D. D., Cor. Sec.

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A. ABBOTT LOW, Chairman of the General Committee.

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Gentlemen.—George S. Stephenson, Chairman; Messrs. Alexander M. White, I. H. Frothingham, L. S. Burnham, R. H. Manning, George W. Hennings, J. O. Morse, James Myers, Edward Anthony, George T. Hope, John L. Worden, Capt. Radford, Theodore Hinsdale.

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REFRESHMENTS.

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A meeting was held on Saturday evening last, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, in aid of the Fair, at which Henry Ward Beecher said:

I had hoped to meet several gentlemen present whom I do not see, and who were to bear their welcome part of this task, which is not a task, not even a duty, but it may be said is a necessary pleasure. There are some things that it is painful to do; there are some things that, because they are painful, bring so much exertion to the doing of them, that men are thought to do them with a will, whereas it is because they are painful that men bear up toward them with such earnest effort. But to stand in the midst of a Christian community, known and widely reported for its charity, whose example is quoted the world over—to stand in such a community to plead for such a charity as that we now meet to serve, that is not a task, or even a duty, but a necessary pleasure. Allusion has been made already to the general topics of the day, the conflict which is waged and yet to be waged—that which gives occasion for such a meeting as this; but it is not of these that I would or shall speak, but simply a word or two in regard to those that have gone forth and are suffering in this conflict. I was asked to-day by a friend, whom I see present this evening, whether I thought this Sanitary Commission was really needed, and whether there was not some little humbug about it; for, he said, he was told by a friend that an officer in the army had informed him that there was no need of it, no occasion for it. I cannot say who that officer was; I will not suppose but that he was sincerely mistaken; but I have no doubt that he was mistaken, wholly and absolutely, for I do not speak merely in consequence of the enthusiastic utterances which you as well as I heard here last year from that most laborious public servant, Dr. Bellows, nor merely from the reports in the papers. It has been my good fortune to have a brother-in-law called into this service, and for more than a year he has been laboring in behalf of the sick and wounded of our army in Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, and New Orleans, where he now is; and it is through him that I learn of the interior reality of this great mission of mercy; and though I do not undertake to endorse that which needs none, yet I say I have no more doubt of its necessity and mercy than of the sun that shines in the heavens by day, or any other fact of my existence. If there lingers in any mind a doubt—and "he that doubteth is damned already," it is said—of the the great good of this association, let the doubt be cleared away at once. I have confidence in the society and the men who manage it, and there is no other channel through which you can better convey your help to those who need it than this. I have sometimes thought that we know very little of true patriotism. It is not such as we who are comfortable at home and pitch from the loaf of our abundance a crumb here and there—a large crumb perhaps from the individual, but how small in the aggregate, when compared with our comforts and the necessities of those to whom it is given. I was conversing to-day with a friend of former years, who in an incident she related to me revealed the temper of her own kind heart. Her little boy, not able to speak plainly, seeing a pale soldier on the street before her house, went up to him and asked him if he was sick. The soldier replied, No, that he was hungry. The boy lisped out in his broken prattle, "Ma keeps a soldiers' hotel; come in." He came in and got a cup of coffee, and the little fellow, encouraged by the success which had attended his first endeavor, went out and brought in twenty-seven others. They had been on a boat traveling from Friday until Monday, with nothing to eat but crackers and river water, and were quite ready to appreciate the excellent breakfast to which they soon sat down. As they sat at the table, the good lady noticed a resemblance between two of them—they were brothers. "Ah," said she, "how pleasant it must be to have a brother with you in the army." "Oh," he replied, "there are more than two, there are five of us brothers here." So there were; five stalwart, brave fellows had gone together from one family. There was another who was a cripple who could not go, and another who was too young, but it was all they could do to prevent the old man going too. That I call patriotism. Who of us have done any thing that can be mentioned in the same day as that? I know of instances in which the only child has gone and not been taken back; and when one and another falls, and every day brings nearer the prospect that this only child may fall. I know heroic mothers who stand firm to the offering they have made, and will not draw back their gift. Who of us is patriotic in this measure? Let me read a line from a young woman, a woman of education and culture, belonging to a wealthy family in the West, who has given most of her time since the war began to the soldier's service, having gone out with the first regiment from that noble State, Indiana:

"Nothing ever touched me so much as cheers from those hospital cots. When the fall of Vicksburg was announced in Jackson Hospital, at Memphis, the whole great building, filled with terribly wounded, rang for an hour with cheers and songs. Some sang and shouted who never had strength to speak again, and many who knew they should never hear of another victory on earth.

"I am trying to be patient and stay at home without fretting; but I can't see how people can say, 'Well, you ought to rest and enjoy yourself awhile, you have done enough.' All the work I ever had in my life that gave me full heart-room and the best of rest and joy is that same hospital work, and nothing could induce me to endure this sort of 'rest' a minute but that father needs me, and my duty is at home for the present. I pray every hour for the chance of going back with a clear conscience, and I know I shall.

"I speak of it as 'work.' It isn't work to me. I *love* everybody who has raised a hand for true love of the cause, and my first enthusiasm never wore off. Ignorant, filthy, and coarse as some must be who need the services of hospital nurse, yet always the first sight of a wound or a pale face that is the price of a service to our country, makes its owner a hero to me at once, and all labor for him an honor and pleasure. I

do get tired, but it is only the flesh, and that isn't real weariness."

It is my pride to believe that there is not a city or village in the land that has not such patriots as these; and where such natural ministers of peace are stirred up at once to such true patriotism—where they give not merely their possessions and their labor, but their own selves, their very spirit and body becoming a hovering and ministering presence in sickness and the camp—shall we doubt one single moment? There is a zeal, a divine spirit of patriotism in the country, that shall bear us through, and we shall be true to every duty of humanity, every instinct of pity and piety.

I might add some considerations drawn from your position in this city; but though I do not disregard or undervalue them, I base my appeal to you on higher grounds. I should be proud to have Brooklyn stand, if not first, at least high up on the roll of honor; and still further should be proud to have my own people stand highest among you; but local pride, though it might have a subordinate place, is not that to which I would appeal.

It is to that common to you and all the people of New York and the whole land; our common love of humanity, our common love of country, our common love of God, who, in the person of his Son, our Saviour, went about doing good, healing the sick, and comforting the suffering. It is to these higher motives that I would appeal, and I know I would not appeal in vain; and when Brooklyn shall have accomplished her labor of love, I know there will not be one thing to be ashamed of, but much to be proud of, and that God shall be pleased with the offering we shall bring. [Applause.]

And Mr. Moses F. Odell said:

I was at the White House nearly two years ago, and I remember to-night very well my sail up the Pamunkey River. I started with quite a company on the excursion, and we very soon came up to a vessel with the flag of the Sanitary Commission flying at her mast-head, and soon another, a larger steamer, flying the same flag. The Daniel Webster, and Wilson G. Small, and the Wissahickon, a little tender, and several others, were all there with the flags of this Commission flying from their mast-heads. I thought it a grand affair; very large it must be, to employ all these vessels, but probably very useless; but before I had been long at the White House there came down from Fair Oaks some five or six hundred wounded soldiers on a train of cars, and then I discovered the vast resources and usefulness of this Commission. I found on board those steamboats numbers of ladies and gentlemen, ready to go to work with willing hearts and able hands to administer to the wants of those wounded and dying men. Now the Government, I have no hesitation in saying, from the beginning of the war have had a proper appreciation of the needs of the soldier, and have done all in their power, but under such circumstances as these the Commission was ahead of them—hours and days ahead of the Government in the supply of what was needed on that occasion. [Applause.] I joined this Commission then at once, enrolled myself as a working and active member, and remained there four days and nights, during which time there were 3,465 wounded men received, their immediate wants supplied, and necessary medical assistance furnished by the Commission, and they were then sent from there to the Washington and other hospitals. And, had not these vessels been there with their bountiful supplies to make the soldier comfortable in his wants and sickness, the suffering would have been untold. I shall never forget one incident, occurring during my services there. I had taken in my hand a pail of iced lemonade, prepared from the stores of the Commission by some ladies from New York, who were with us, and went out to the cars to distribute it among the wounded. I never shall forget one poor fellow I saw there. He had been left for dead on the field, and the rebels had robbed him of every thing—that is their profession; they have done it ever since the beginning of the war; they had taken all his clothes, and he was wrapped in a blanket. He was scarcely able to speak, but he showed me his wounds, and I gave him a glass of lemonade, for which he returned a look of inexpressible gratitude. A ball had taken out his right eye and came out behind his ear, and he was not expected to live; but two or three weeks afterward, in a hospital where I went to find some of the Fourteenth Regiment boys, I found him with a patch over his eye, seemingly getting well, and he said to me: "Sir, I wish I had a house and lot to give you." Now I was only the instrument of the Sanitary Commission; it was their ice and their lemonade, and I was simply the instrument to carry it from their boat to the car, to this poor fellow You may give many dollars, but cannot pay for or balance the comfort and good they did that man and thousands of others like him. And such scenes as this I witnessed constantly during the four days and nights I remained there.

The agents and employees of the Commission (but few of them paid, I am happy to say) rendered most efficient and faithful service the whole time. I will tell you another instance of how good a thing this Sanitary Commission is. A young man came to me one evening, saying: "There is a young man in the second cabin whom I think you would like to see." "They are rebels there," I said. "Yes," he replied, "they are; but come and see the man." I went with him, and meeting on the stairs that good man and true philanthropist, Mr. Barclay, of Philadelphia, he went with us. Seeing the man's condition, I said to him: "They tell me you are badly wounded." "Yes, sir," said he: "I don't suppose I shall live long; but I want to tell you that ever since I have been brought among you here I have been treated with so much kindness—all my wants have been satisfied, and even luxuries supplied me, so very different from what I had been led to expect, that I want to make one more request of you. I want you to write to my wife and four little children, and say I died penitent for ever raising my hand or gun against so good a people as you are." That rebel's heart was softened by the kindness of this Sanitary Commission. I saw the same things again at the battle of Fredericksburg. The Commission was there again, long ahead of the Government, with all their plenteous bounty, bestowing it with a liberal hand on all who needed it.

Again at Gettysburg I saw the same class of incidents. I there went to a hospital where I

was informed that some of the Fourteenth Regiment wounded were lying, and I found on the ground floor of a small house seventeen men connected with that regiment, every man with an arm or leg off, lying upon straw. The surgeon was kind, and did all he could, but they were, as I have said, lying upon straw, and all as they were picked up off the field, grimy, bloody, and dirty. I went through the town trying to buy seventeen clean shirts for them, but could not get them for love or money. I at length went to the quarters of the association, and told Dr. Bellows, whom I found there, of my need of shirts, bed-ticks, and sheets. "Knock open that box, John," called the Doctor to an assistant, and in a few moments I had all I wanted. And if you had seen me then in Gettysburg, you would have seen a man not very fond of carrying bundles, by the testimony of his wife, perfectly happy in the possession of an immense bundle of all those poor fellows needed. How their countenances lit up with joy when they saw what was then more to them than houses or lands! Why, the $35,000 you raised the other day did not pay for those seventeen shirts, bed-ticks, etc. Mr. Beecher says he wants Brooklyn to be very near the head of the roll. I want her away up head, and I think we will get there if this same spirit lasts.

THE WORK OF RELIEF IN EASTERN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND.

Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector of Relief, has made the following very interesting report at the session of the Commission now being held in Washington, on the work of relief since July last, in the armies of Eastern Virginia and Maryland, excepting the troops in Washington, Baltimore, and Maryland:

The Field Relief Corps, placed in the Army of the Potomac July 18, 1863, has since that time steadily labored in that field, down to the date of the present Report, gaining the respect and confidence of the officers of the army as well as the good will and gratitude of the men. It has become an "*institution*," so to speak, in the army, and has adapted itself in such a way to meet the wants of the service, that the plan of the Commission, as a supplementary organization to the medical corps, acting with its approbation, and, where it is possible, under its direction, has been strictly carried out. Experience has been gained by its members which has wonderfully increased its efficiency; and I have no hesitation now in claiming for it the right to be considered one of the best modes, if not the very best, of administering the bounties of the people to the soldiers, without interfering with the regular routine of military life and discipline in the slightest manner.

The operations of this corps have been conducted up to date in the manner indicated in document No. 72, viz.: the agents live in the respective corps to which they have been assigned by the superintendent, have their tents pitched along with the ambulance corps, where their wagons and stores are generally retained. They visit the hospitals, whether division, brigade, or regimental, find out wants from the medical officers or from personal inspection, and then see that these are supplied, the surgeons generally dispatching ambulances or wagons for them; or, in case of their inability to obtain this transportation, the agent employs his own wagon for the purpose. When the army moves the sanitary wagon moves with it. The agent looks out for cases where individual relief is needed, and furnishes it directly, because such cases are sometimes so circumstanced that it would be impossible to get medical attention without long delay. By his acquaintance with the officers of the corps he is enabled to move along the marching column unhindered by questions that would necessarily meet the stranger. The reports of the agents, referring to the movements of the army of the Potomac, will show how great were the opportunities afforded them from time to time of bringing kindly relief to the suffering and wayworn soldier.

This work demands not only zeal and earnestness, but that the agent should be possessed of a good judgment, enabling him to distinguish between an affectation of suffering and distress and that which is real and unaffected. The former can be assumed by the malingerer in so plausible a way that the novice to this work of philanthropy is always liable to gross deception. He gives *because* the demand is made. He does not investigate the nature of this demand, nor the probable truth on which it is based. He gives freely and without stint. The undeserving are thus rewarded for their cunning and lies, and the stores which the sympathizing women of the nation have forwarded for the use of the suffering, are prostituted to satisfying the greed of the worthless. This is especially the case with lady visitors to our camps. With hearts

full of generous sympathy, and spirits eager to relieve suffering—their sole desire being to aid their brothers in the name not only of a common national cause, but in accordance with the Christian rule that meat should be given to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, lodging to the houseless, clothing to the naked, and consolation to those in prison. The idea of deception on the part of those requesting aid is never dreamed of by these ministers of charity. Their mission is a holy one, and all thought of untruth on the part of those claiming assistance is necessarily absent from their minds. There is another class of persons, also, unfitted for the work of relief—those proceeding from State organizations, and eager to give publicity to the results of their operations in the army. They give to every one asking, give freely, and thus do injury also to the cause of relief. The principle underlying the work of the Relief Agents of the Sanitary Commission—that underlying the whole design of the Commission—is to work as far as possible with the approbation of the Medical Officers, furnishing supplies under their orders, or directly to *individual* cases after carefully examining into the real character of such. A sound judgment, unaffected by mere sentimentalism, or unsuspecting tenderness of heart, and most certainly free from all desire of parade and show—a sound judgment, I say, conjoined with an earnest sympathy with *real* suffering, and a holy love of the Union and all its defenders—this is imperatively demanded from every one who wi hes to do satisfactory work in the way of Field Relief.

One important feature in our operations is, to make every effort so that the soldier shall receive every thing to which he is entitled from Government. Whenever articles are properly obtainable from the purveyor, quartermaster, or commissary, an effort is always made to aid him to secure such from the regular sources; and when this fails, then to come to the rescue with the voluntary bounties of the people. If the want is so imminent as to demand immediate attention, the needed stores are furnished at once.

In the month of November my attention was directed to a plan for the addition of a flying ambulance arrangement to the Field Relief Corps. After some weeks' consideration of this subject, on the 23d of the same month I approved a plan which was proposed by a Russian physician, Dr. Herman Baalen, who was represented as having had considerable experience during the Crimean war in the management of a flying ambulance depot. This plan was shortly afterwards put into operation, through the orders of the associate secretary in Washington, Mr. Knapp. Finding on my return to duty, after a few weeks' leave of absence, necessitated by increasing indisposition, that this flying ambulance arrangement would not be required during the winter, and that very important changes would be necessary before it would adapt itself to the needs of the Commission, an order was issued dispensing with it on December 11, 1863.

The arrangements for the Field Relief Corps during the coming quarter will require certain changes, which economy and the character of the needs of an army in winter quarters require. It is intended that the agents shall have the field store-house, which is generally situated at the quartermaster's depot of supplies, as their headquarters. The wagons will be brought in during the months of inactivity. The agents, with their saddle horses, will move through the corps as occasion shall require, ascertain what wants exist, and endeavor to have these supplied, either through the medical officers, or by personally carrying the stores and directly meeting individual want. The superintendent will have the opportunity of learning almost daily the condition of the work in each corps, and of giving directions continually on the subject. The whole family will have frequent opportunities of profiting by each other's experience, and stimulating each other to continuous good work. One or more wagons will be retained at the field store-house to meet such emergencies as may require the transfer suddenly of stores from one point to another. When active operations are once more resumed in the army, the wagons will be replaced. It must be understood that in this arrangement it is not necessary that the agent should reach the field store-house every night—indeed, the nature of

his business may require him to remain away from the headquarters for days on a trip—the only change of the plan as regards the quarters of the agent being that these shall be now for the winter at the field store-house, and not separated from the rest in each corps.

An earnest effort has been made to keep the expenses of this corps within reasonable limits, and the compensation allowed the agents is barely enough to meet the expenses necessarily incurred; still there has been no complaint, because the service has been entered upon with a strong attachment to the Federal cause, and an anxious desire to aid those who are so nobly fighting in its defence. The ordinary life of the army when inactive offers no attractions to most men, although the promptings of morbid curiosity will bring them in hosts to battle-fields; and it is during this inactive life that our relief agents are called upon to do yeoman's service. They must labor so that all obstacles to health shall be removed, and that the soldier shall be fitted for whatever may be required of him. A strong sense of duty must be the ruling motive, or more attractive positions would draw them off. Again, the position is frequently one of danger. Some of the agents have been under the enemy's fire in the performance of their duty, and all of them are exposed to capture in their lonesome rides through the corps of the army. Our position as the almoners of a people's bounteous consideration for the sick and wounded, has as yet practically *not* been recognized by the authorities of the Confederate Government. One of our teamsters, attached to the 5th Corps, George W. Longley, was seized by the rebels in a late attack on the army train, and is now believed to be a prisoner in Richmond. Considering that the invariable rule of the Commission has been to supply the wants of all the wounded and suffering within the Federal lines, and that the eyes of all Europe have been turned toward the general recognition of a corps of *Infirmiers Volontaires* as free from capture in time of war, (as specially shown in the late Congress held at Geneva,) it is mortifying to find that a similar recognition will not be granted by the Southern contestants to persons holding similar positions in our own armies. It is shameful that the reward for bringing succor to the wounded should be incarceration within the walls of a loathsome prison, and exposure to want, hunger, and loathsome disease. As the matter stands now, all this really impends over every one who works in the Field Relief Corps, and the danger is freely and fearlessly braved.

As a general thing, a weekly report has been made, through the Superintendent, on the work of relief in his corps by the agents. These reports are transmitted herewith, without correction or alteration, so that the record may exist as it was made at the time, and may be placed in the Archives of the Commission for the use of the future historian of this war.

I must state my candid opinion, that a more energetic, zealous body of young men I have never met with than those which constitute our corps in the Army of the Potomac. The position calls out all the faculties of mind and body. The agent has frequently to play hostler, cook, tailor, shoemaker, teamster, and indeed must know how to help himself out of every dilemma in which a man can possibly fall who is in the field away from the aids as well as the refining influences of civilization. He must be prepared for any and every form of accident that may meet him in his nomadic life—undergo all the hardships and much of the danger of a soldier's life, and yet be unaffected by the hope of preferment, the increase of rank or pay, or even by a notice in a general order. They labor on in their work quietly and unobtrusively, scattering the handiwork of the sewing circles of villages and country towns, as well as the larger stores of great cities, and thus making available what the glorious charities of our people are eager to extend to the suffering soldier. What a noble work is thus done by the joint aid of the furnishers and distributors of supplies, is only to known to Him who knows all things!

In this connection I must make special mention of the untiring assiduity of Capt. Isaac Harris, the Assistant Superintendent of the Corps, who has had charge in the field during the temporary absence of Mr. J. W. Johnson. His vigilance and activity are

only equaled by his jealous care for the good reputation of the Commission, and his resolute determination that no quasi-philanthropist shall use it for his own personal advantage or advancement. It is a fortunate occurrence that we have two men so devoted to our work as Mr. Johnson and Capt. Harris in the Field Corps. At best, only general directions for this work can be issued by the Chief Inspector, and it is a fortunate circumstance that these gentlemen have taken such an enthusiastic hold of their duties. Like every one connected with this hard-working, patient army, the love of country and of doing good nerves them to meet all exigencies as they arise.

Since the first formation of the Field Relief Corps at Boonsborough, Md., July 17, 1863, in addition to the four wagon loads of stores first sent forth—of which no account was made—the following articles have been issued through its agents up to the date of this report:

Brandy, Rum, and Whiskey	1,936	bottles.
Foreign and Domestic Wine	1,271	"
Jamaica Ginger	840	"
Extract of Beef	2,792	cans.
Condensed Milk	4,400	"
Corn Starch, &c., &c	4,533	pounds.
Soft Crackers	89½	barrels.
Pickles	436	gallons.
Jellies	610	jars.
Dried Fruit	21	barrels.
Tea	223	pounds.
Chocolate	1,012	"
Sugar	1,074	"
Chloroform	81	"
Tamarinds	110	gallons.
Tomatoes	156	cans.
Shirts, wool and cotton	6,301	
Drawers, "	5,513	
Socks, "	4,739	
Bed-ticks	1,522	
Blankets and Quilts	2,310	
Pillow Cases	1,712	
Handkerchiefs	1,414	
Tin Cups	1,204	
Towels	3,547	
Slippers	843	
Pillows	992	
Sheets	1,017	
Work Bags	209	
Tobacco	735	pounds.
Buckets	20	

In concluding this general sketch of *what the Field Relief Corps has been, and what it has done*, I must state that I consider my connection with it as one of the most satisfactory and extended opportunities of doing good that has ever fallen to my lot, and express my sense of thankfulness to Providence for the great privilege I have enjoyed of superintending and directing its operations.

On the 8th of December, 1863, I was put in charge of a district, including not only the Army of the Potomac, but all the troops in "Eastern Virginia and Maryland, (east from Cumberland,) excepting those connected with the defences of Washington, and those stationed at Baltimore and Annapolis." As the troops in the western portion of this district are mostly stationary, I did not deem it advisable to establish a depot of stores within its limits, or to keep a permanent relief agent with the command, but concluded to work for the present through the reports which our Sanitary Inspectors would make, as to the needs of the troops, hospitals, &c., on their visitations, intending, in case there should arise any special need, hereafter to detail a relief agent for this business. Acting in accordance with this plan, Dr. W. S. Swalm, Sanitary Inspector, was ordered (December 7, 1863) "to proceed by the earliest train to Cumberland, Md., with the view of ascertaining the wants of the troops and hospitals located in and near that town; thence to proceed to Martinsburg, Harper's Ferry, and Charlestown, for the same purpose," and if he should find hospitals at intermediate points, to visit them also. Dr. Swalm reported on the wants as he found them in his tour of inspection, and the needed stores were forwarded at once from the storehouse in Washington. From time to time similar visits for ascertaining wants in this portion of my district will be made by proper officers.

The section of Norfolk, including so much of Major-General B. F. Butler's command (18th Army Corps) as is stationed in Virginia, has been under the special care of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, whose sound judgment, kind heart, and gentlemanly character have enabled him to render efficient aid to the needs of this section, to support and give additional strength to the reputation of the Commission, and to gain the respect and confidence of the military officers with whom he has come into contact. He has steadily and regularly visited all the regiments and hospitals in his section with promptness, sent in his weekly reports of the nature of his work, furnished intelligible and accurate vouchers as regards expenditures of stores and moneys, and, in

a word, has shown himself to be *a model Relief Agent.* I have reason to believe that our work has been done most thoroughly and efficiently in this section.

When there was an opportunity of forwarding stores to Richmond, he acted promptly in this matter; and abundant proof has been afforded us of the acceptability of this work through the letters of Brigadier-General Neal Dow, and others, now incarcerated within the walls of Libby and Castle Thunder.

The stores forwarded from the Washington storehouse for use in Mr. Gall's section, (large quantities were also dispatched from Baltimore,) will be shown by the abstract accompanying this report.

I also ask attention to the Statement of Issues from the Norfolk storehouse during the year 1863, prepared by Samuel Bacon, the Commission's Storekeeper at that post.

BEDDING AND HOSPITAL FURNITURE.

		Issued.
Air Cushions		
Air Beds		
Bed Ticks		1089
Bed Pans		31
Blankets		758
Brooms		30
Chambers		28
Candlesticks		40
Combs, Coarse		140
Hospital Cots		8
Cushions		141
Head Rests		1
Lanterns		8
Medicine Cups		
Medicine Tubes		
Netting, Mosquito	pieces.	216
Oil Silk	yards.	62
Pillows		1632
Pillow Cases		5936
Pillow Ticks		254
Quilts		1579
Rubber Sheeting	yards.	32
Bowls		22
Sheets		4573
Tin Coffee Pots		2
Tin Pails		17
Sponges		124
Soap	lbs.	169
Towels		7166
Tin Cups		920
Tin Basins		185
Urinals		24
Wood Pails		3
Tin Plates		329
Knives and Forks		12
Spoons		84
Wash Boards		10
Clothes Pins		352
Shelter Tents		49

WEARING APPAREL.

		Issued.
COATS—Cotton	pairs.	150
Woolen	"	
DRAWERS—Cotton	"	3201
Woolen	"	2504
Canton Flannel	"	1245
Ear-Laps		124
Flannel Bandages		174
HANDKERCHIEFS—Pocket		4460
Mittens	pairs.	304
Neck Ties		12
Arm Slings		50
PANTS—Cotton	pairs.	165
Woolen	"	
SHIRTS—Cotton, Convalescent		
" Hospital		6166
Woolen		3376
Canton Flannel		324
" " Hospital		
Fancy Caps		28
Slippers	pairs.	3104
SOCKS—Cotton	"	
Woolen	"	4179
VESTS—Cotten and Woolen		115
WRAPPERS—Thin and Thick		641
Mixed Vegetables	bbls.	12
Herring	boxes.	8
Apple Sauce	gals.	52
Eggs	bbls.	1

HOSPITAL FOOD AND DELICACIES.

		Issued.
Rice Flour	lbs.	113
Toast	bbls.	2
Apples, dried	"	105
Arrow Root	lbs.	917
Beef Soup	"	568
Beef, Concentrated Extract	"	1383
Brandy	bottles.	666
Butter	lbs.	311
Coffee	"	394
Canned Meat, Tripe	cans.	87
Tamarinds	gals.	230
Canned Vegetables	cans.	277
Cocoa	lbs.	182
Chocolate	"	2673
Coffee, Extract of	"	62
Condensed Milk	"	3955
Crackers	bbls.	35½
Corn Starch	lbs.	1561
Corn Meal	bbls.	19
Dried Fruit, assorted	"	68
Extract Jamaica Ginger	bottles.	550
Farina	lbs.	1465
Fruit Cordial	bottles.	56
Gelatine	pkgs.	36
Jellies and Preserves	bottles.	861
Flax Seed	lbs.	24
Maizena	"	108
Mustard	"	19
Lemons	boxes.	2
Oat Meal	bbls.	9
Onions	"	10
Pickles	gals.	745
Pepper	lbs.	41
Potatoes	bbls.	12
Sugar, White	lbs.	1307
Oranges	box.	1
Syrups	bottles.	127
Spices	lbs.	8
Tea, Black	"	255
Tapioca	"	121
Tobacco	"	48
Vinegar	bottles.	90
Vinegar, Raspberry	"	101
Wine, Foreign	"	632
Wine, Foreign, in bulk	gals.	84
Wine, Domestic	bottles.	293
Wine, Domestic, in bulk	gals.	7
Whiskey	bottles.	835
Whiskey, in bulk	gals.	16
Rum	"	12
Rum	bottles.	193
Ale	bbls.	10
Porter	gals.	279
Brandy	"	15

MISCELLANEOUS.

		Issued.
Chloroform	bottles.	60
Bay Rum	"	145
Catsup	"	11
Cologne	"	10
Camphor, Spirits of	"	6
Quinine	"	22
Crutches	pairs.	23
Apple Juice	cans.	8
Fans		461
Ext. Fruit	cans.	23
Games		20
Sago	lbs.	32
Lint	bbls.	5
Candles	lbs.	3
Magazines, &c	boxes.	9
Old Linen	bbls.	13

Pincushions and Needle Books	boxes.	3
Roll Bandages	bbls.	8
Horse Radish	bottles.	2
Matches	boxes.	144
Cod Fish	lbs.	830
Chicken	cans.	48
Lager Beer	bbls.	1

STATIONERY.

		Issued.
Envelopes		2875
Ink	bottles.	25
Letter Paper	reams.	
Note Paper	quires.	173
Pencils		
Pen Holders		105
Pens		288

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As regards the troops in the defences of Washington, upon whose condition Dr. Steiner does not touch, a most satirfactory statement is made in a report from Dr. Julius Nichols, one of our inspectors, which has also been read at the present session of the Commission. He gives a consolidated report, showing the rate of sickness in each regiment, furnishing an exhibition of the most satisfactory state of health. He reports the prevalence of excellent morals among the men, and says that there is no tendency to any form of epidemic disease. Scarcely any typhoid exists, and there is a universal absence of scurvy. Everywhere throughout the forces, the greatest satisfaction was expressed by the men as to the quality and quantity of the Government rations; and in every regiment the "company funds," well gathered and used, provided a variety in the dietary of such articles as butter, milk, eggs, vegetables, etc., etc. A very general inclination to re-enlist among the veterans is reported by Dr. N., thus confirming the often-expressed belief of patriotic observers of the national army, that its soldiers are thoroughly in earnest in their devotion to the good cause, and determined "to see the thing out," as some of them commonly call the rebellion.

What Dr. Nichols says of the high morals of the forces within the defences of Washington, is true of the entire Federal army, with scarcely an exception. The lapse of more than two years, and the trials of repeated and severe campaigns, have eliminated from the army much of the poor material that clogged its ranks during the earlier period of their enlistment. We have now a rapidly increasing army of veterans.

☞ There is at present a great scarcity of warm mittens in the storehouses of the Commission, and the severity of the weather of course makes the want of them greatly felt in the army. It is earnestly requested that efforts may be made by our readers and all friends of the cause to supply this want, by sending forward supplies of them *at once* to the depots of the branch societies, the addresses of which are all given on page 187 of this number of the BULLETIN.

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3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND FAIR.

The LADIES who have been notified of their appointment as Managers of the Fair in aid of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, to be opened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on the 22d February next, are respectfully reminded that they are expected to take immediate measures, within their respective congregations, and social or family circles, according to their own best judgment and discretion, for insuring the largest possible amount of aid to this great enterprise.

Mrs. J. S. T. STRANAHAN, President.

January 6th, 1864.

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THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
G. W. Cullom, U. S. A.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.

OFFICERS:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., President.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President.
George T. Strong, Treasurer.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Associate Secretary.
J. H. Douglas, M.D., Associate Secretary.
F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, andwhere he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C.W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Sup't.

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Between Louisville and Murfreesboro'—Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in charge.

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Mississippi River—Clara Bell; Cumberland River—New Dunleith; Potomac River—Elizabeth.

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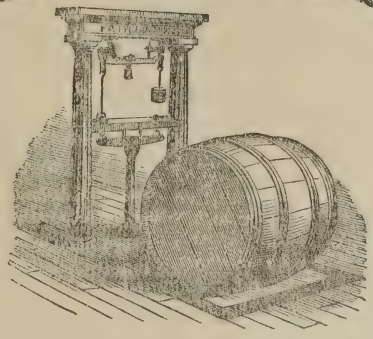
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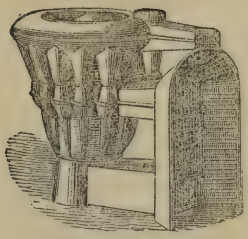
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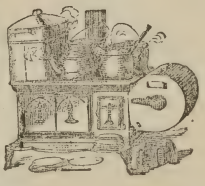


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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 1, 1864. No. 7.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 12,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

After the late session of the Board at Washington, which terminated on Friday evening, January 15th, a Council of Women, representing the various Branches of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, assembled at the Central Office, and were in session Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, January 18th, 19th, and 20th. Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, were represented, and—to name some cities and towns—Portland, Boston, Brattleboro', Middletown, (Conn.,) New Haven, Watertown, (N. Y.,) Buffalo, Rochester, New York city, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Elmira, (N. Y.,) Wilmington, (Del.,) Chicago, Troy, Sharon, (Conn.) In addition to the ladies, who were formal delegates from the Branches, the wives of some Senators and Representatives most interested in the war were present, and a few ladies distinguished for their activity in the public service, Miss Dix, Mrs. Senator Harlan, Mrs. Gibbons, and the wives of two generals in the army. Besides the President, and the General Secretary and Associate Secretaries, and other officers of the Commission, several medical and military gentlemen attended the council.

It was no part of the design of the meeting to discuss or effect any change in the organization of the Branches—which have long been working with commendable efficacy; nor to bring about any greater conformity in the details of local work—there were no special embarrassments or obstacles to remove or overcome. The meeting of women held under Mr. Olmsted's superintendence a year ago, had effected all that was desirable in that respect; and then not by force of any compulsory or binding regulations—but only by the comparison of views and the diffusion of light. One fter another of the eastern Branches had voluntarily adopted the general method first assumed by the Boston Branch, until there was little to choose in the order and success of their operations. Nor were the Branches in want of light upon the views, the plans, and the machinery of the Central Board. The numerous and thorough publications of the Commission had furnished, to all attentive readers of them, sufficient illumination upon these points. Yet it was not vainly thought, that the meeting of these representative women would bring out, by wholesome friction of opinions and exchange of experience, much that would be both new and interesting to themselves and valuable to the Commission itself; that the sight of each other would be gratifying and stimulating; and especially that the bringing of the experience and work of the Branches, and the experience and work of the Commission itself in the hospitals and the field, into direct contact and comparison, or rather into their real relationship to each other, would present the whole work in its completeness, and give to the usually divided or discriminated halves of the common enterprise, the feeling of wholeness, in which our nature so much rejoices.

The first thing, then, attempted in the meeting, was to convey to the women in council a full and living conception of the work of the Commission, in the hospital, the field, and with the soldiers everywhere. This was effected in various ways :—1st. By carefully laying out in *words*, the distinction between the objects, and methods, and duties of the Branches—in their collection of supplies—and the objects, methods, and duties of the Commission in their distribution of them. 2d. By lecturing from a gigantic diagram, in which each and every part of the work of the Commission is laid down in lines, (of different colors)—the medical, or preventive service, in green, the special relief service in red, and the general supply service in black; and by which diagram the system of responsibility adopted in our Commission service is illustrated. 3d. By lecturing on the black board on the geographical position of our corps and on our relief stations, with illustrations of the difficulties of transportation and the distance of four armies from their base. 4th. By inviting questions and furnishing answers, or by asking questions and obtaining answers from the ladies present—many of whom had been in the field.

The chief questions the Commission had to ask the Branches were :

1. As to the efficiency of the new plan of associate managers.

It was found that wherever faith and zeal had taken hold of the cause, the least patriotic towns and neighborhoods had yielded to the efforts of the single-handed ladies who had championed our plan. One lady had found that when three or four letters of inquiry and entreaty for some town organization had failed to effect it, the fifth, sixth, or seventh accomplished it. Another (and this was a general testimony) had found, that where all letters had failed, personal visits succeeded. One manager had visited forty different towns. Another had quickened loyalty and humanity in the very nests of copperheadism, and made several towns, given over to hopeless hatred of the war and all its fruits, take to active exertions in behalf of our sick and suffering soldiers. Twenty-seven counties in New York, with associate managers, furnished three times the amount of supplies of twenty-seven other equally favorably situated counties without associate managers. It was found that the western region was more generally interested, though not so systematically at work as the eastern; and the comparison of notes between the representations of different districts left an impression upon some of the Branches, that the fields that they now tilled needed, and would bear, much deeper plowing and a wider sowing.

2. The influence of canvassing agents was a point on which the Commission needed information from the Branches. It was generally allowed that the information communicated by the living voice, by well-informed and experienced canvassers, had done great good, and that documentary, or even newspaper publications, would not take its place. Many communities dated their faith in, and zeal for, the Commission, from the visit of some earnest and thorough canvasser. More of this work was asked for.

3. The influence of the *Bulletin* and of our documents in general, was another question we had to ask. There seemed to be a divided judgment on this point. Those who were comparatively new to our work valued these publications, and thought them very essential, indeed indispensable. Those who knew it best, thought the *Bulletin* too heavy; the articles not short enough; not enough crowded with spicy and affecting incidents; too much occupied with business reports and scientific matter. The ladies were informed that the *Bulletin* had several functions:—1. To take the place of other and expensive printing, and preserve our official reports for circulation among our own corps of workers. 2. To advance sanitary science. 3. To communicate with the medical men in the army and the profession elsewhere. 4. To keep the money-giving public posted as to the substantial nature and extent of our work. 5. To address the sensibilities and affections of the homes of the land. We could not sacrifice the other four objects wholly to the last; but we would endeavor to make the last more prominent.

4. The influence of Sanitary Fairs upon our future prospect of supplies, was an-

other question of great interest. As "in dry weather all signs fail," so it was commonly thought, in a critical and exceptional period of our national history like this, the usual rules break down as to the unfavorableness of spasmodic excitements upon the normal interest of the public in sanitary work. It was stated that in Chicago and in Boston the fairs, very unpopular among business men at the start, had grown in favor as they came to the practical test; that the business interest had found them their best advertising card; and that trade, instead of suffering by their competition, had actually thriven in a marked way under their stimulus. Chicago, it was represented, was quite ready to have another, if necessary. The amount of patriotism created by the fairs quite overbalance any loss of regular industry through the temporary exhaustion caused by them. There seemed to be little evidence that the usual returns of the receiving depots were lessened by the existence of the fairs, while the increase of numbers freshly interested in the work, by the attention thus called to the subject, largely exceeded, in its prospective results, all possible injury produced by these local excitements.

The main questions which the Branches had to put to the Commission were these:

1. There is a common impression, industriously increased by the rivals or enemies of the Commission, that the cost of the Sanitary Commission is excessive—particularly in salaries and in printing. The ladies present had no misgivings on this point, but they wished to be able to answer the gainsayers with authority. It was shown that the Sanitary Commission had received (by estimated value) about seven millions of dollars in supplies, and about a million dollars in money; that the money had been used, about *half*, in purchasing such kinds of supplies as the homes of the land do not furnish—medicines and food necessary for the sick and their relief; and the other half in distributing efficiently, by a thoroughly organized and necessarily costly system, the seven millions of supplies, or in maintaining Homes and Lodges and special Relief. It was shown that at a cost of $15,000 a month, two hundred experts, medical inspectors, relief agents, clerks, and assistants were maintained in the field, distributed all over the country, from Texas to New York; from Port Royal to Kansas; that these men did not average the wages of carpenters and masons, although most of them were men of education, taste, and skill, who could earn many times over their salaries in other fields of labor; that, for instance, the Relief Corps of the whole army of the Potomac did not average $2.00 a day to each man, and that no volunteer service could take its place, or compare with it in efficiency.

2. As to printing, everybody was amazed to learn that the whole cost of printing to the Commission, for its whole existence, three years nearly, had been about $10,000, including advertising, reporter, *Bulletin*, medical tracts, and other documents. The Chicago Branch, by its eloquent and enlightened delegate, Mrs. Hoge, urged that *advertisements*, by newspaper, pulpit, and circular, was the very life of all success; that in their Branch the matter had been reduced to an absolute system, and that they hesitated at no expense found necessary in bringing their wants before the public. She urged the importance of frequent and of *specific* calls by printed circulars, and explained the efficacy of an "*Onion Circular*," only eight lines long, which brought that wholesome anti-scorbutic on strings into their depots, till hundreds of barrels were despatched. This was followed, by "a Potato Circular," and that by "a Pickel Circular," with similar productiveness. The whole press, secular and religious—the whole clergy, by careful lists made out according to denomination, were made mediums of advertising in the West, with wonderful results.

3. The question of security in the transportation of supplies, and of a prompt and just distribution of them among the sick, without ravage from surgeons, stewards, and nurses, was treated with great copiousness. The Commission exchanged their testimony with those ladies who had been at the seat of war in quest of evidence on this vital point. The Commission has always assumed the general trustworthiness of the Medical Department, the army surgeons, and stewards, on ordinary grounds

of confidence in the decency of persons holding responsible stations. It has admitted a small per centage of loss and ravage. But apart from this general trust, its positive watchfulness and direct observation have warranted none of the suspicions so vulgarly prevalent against the honesty and ordinary humanity of the surgeons of the army. Mrs. Hoge testified that with the fullest opportunities of tracing supplies, she had not been able to see how they could, or that they did get stolen, or lost on their way; or that after reaching the hospital, it was possible that they should be misappropriated without producing universal scandal. She stated that in Memphis, where several large hospitals existed, out of all the numerous wards she found but two in which the least complaint existed among the men that the supplies did not reach them, and that the ward-masters, in these two cases, were at once dismissed on her complaint to the surgeon in charge.

She stated an affecting anecdote of a surgeon, worn down with many sleepless nights, whom she had exhorted to go to bed—who said, "How dare I go to bed, with these rumors constantly circulating in the homes that we surgeons are a slothful, self-indulgent set;" and in another case, when she begged an exhausted surgeon to take some white sugar in his tea, he exclaimed, "No, brown sugar for me; I must deny myself the ordinary comforts provided for other sick men, or I shall be set down among those worthless wretches called surgeons, who are eating up the poor soldiers' delicacies."

As to the washing in the army, a vast improvement was recognized, and the system appeared to be working well. It appeared to be even better in the hospitals near the field of war than nearer home, where pure sloth—which seemed to invade alike ward-masters and soldiers—kept them all alike often filthy and unwashed.

Besides the President, Dr. Jenkins the General Secretary, Dr. Newberry the Associate Secretary for the West, Mr. Knapp the Associate Secretary for the East, participated largely, and each with some special contribution of experience. Dr. Newberry, whose personal experience has been as vast as his labors have been abundant and efficient, was specially instructive on the topography of our western operations—illustrating the vast difficulties of transportation, and the length of the lines along which we forwarded our supplies.

Miss Dix met the ladies by special appointment after the adjournment, and gave them an address on Hospital Nursing of great interest and value.

The ladies visited "the Home," the "Lodges," the Store-houses, the Convalescent Camp, the Hospitals, and other objects of interest, including the President. Their visit appeared as eminently satisfactory to themselves as it was interesting and instructive to the Commission. Those who came together as strangers, parted as warm friends. The faith of the highly intelligent, practical, and useful women who thus came together—whose judgment, sound, sober, and experimental, would be no common ordeal—was, if possible, fixed with firmer roots in the cause of that Commission which they had trusted and labored for so long, and which they found bore the closest scrutiny and the most punctilious questioning.

Expressions of regard for Mr. Olmsted—who had presided at the last meeting—were heartily united in by the Council before they adjourned.

An address was delivered by the President of the Commission at the opening of the Council, of which the following is the substance:

The object of this meeting is to establish the most satisfactory and efficient relation between the Central Board of the Sanitary Commission and its Branches.

The satisfactoriness and efficiency of this relation depends—

I. Upon a clear understanding of what the distinctive functions of the Branches and of the Central Board are.

THE BRANCHES ARE DESIGNED:

1. To organize affiliated societies within their own geographical districts; afford them, by circulars and correspondence, by lectures and printed matter, all needed information and incitement to intelligent zeal and permanent effort.

2. The Branches collect, store, sort, mark,

and forward supplies, to the order of the Central Board, through its General Secretary.

3. They attend to such local relief, distribution, and hospital care of sick or wounded soldiers, as may be needed in the Home-field, by soldiers in transit, or while in process of preparation for the field of war, and supervise such local interests of the Commission as may arise in their special spheres. This is sometimes under the separate organization of a committee of associates, and sometimes wholly without it. The principle is in either cases the same.

4. The Branches, having originated under different circumstances, two at least even before the Commission itself, are not strictly analogous, either in form of title, or methods of operation, and in this respect follow the genius of our institutions; according to which the separate States, while all loyal to the Federal Government, have certain special characteristics and laws suited to their origin and circumstances. This difference in unity is a bond of strength, allowing the Branches to sway with ease in the direction of the local winds that sweep them, without forsaking or endangering the common stock into which they are grafted.

5. The Branches are independent in their local rule, their special methods, their by-laws, their treasury, the choice of members, and officers. They are bound to the Central Board only in this :

(1.) An engagement to distribute supplies exclusively through the Sanitary Commission and its authorized agents.

(2.) An obligation to receive and acknowledge the fundamental principles of the Commission, *i. e.*, (*a*) the great federal principle of absolute ignoring of State or local claims, in favor of the National or United States soldier; and (*b*) the co-operation of the Commission with the Medical Department and the Government, as a strengthener and supplementer of their plans, and rules, and method—not their rival, antagonistic, or unfriendly critic.

THE CENTRAL BOARD

has it for its duty, to study the wants of the army in the field :

1. To see its dangers to health and life, and to prevent them, by diffusing information, warning, and anti-scorbutics, sometimes in the form of food—fresh vegetables or change of diet—and sometimes in the form of prophylactic medicines, and sometimes in the dissemination of vaccine virus. This preventive service requires three different agencies :

A. A Corps of Medical Inspectors, whose time is passed with the armies in the field, visiting camps, hospitals, and transports ; experts, who watch the perils from climate, malarious exposure, from hard marching or active campaigning, from inadequate food or clothing, growing out of imperfect facilities of transportation, and report to the Associate Secretary in charge, or to Relief Agents under their control, what is to be done in the way of supplies, cargoes of vegetable, or loads of clothing, for their protection. This preventive service, by its processes, collects the scientific materials for our Bureau of Statistics, by which we reach those generalisations that teach us how to do our work better and better. The comparison of climates, and circumstances, and discipline, and age of troops, and method of treating them, forms the basis of instruction which must influence the whole future of soldiers in the field.

B. A Corps of Special Hospital Inspectors, selected from the most learned physicians, make from time to time the circuit of all the general hospitals, and report upon their wants, condition, progress, *personnel*, and capacity for improvement—the substance of which reports is confidentially made over to the Surgeon-General.

C. The preparation and circulation of medical tracts, and information important and indispensable to the officers, soldiers, and especially the medical men in the field.

II. We pass from the Preventive to the Relief Service.

This is divided into two branches, General and Special Relief.

GENERAL RELIEF

consists in supplementing such ordinary and recognized wants of the soldiers in the field, as our Medical Inspectors and Relief Agents may discover to exist, or as experience has taught us necessarily must exist.

These wants are all theoretically met by the army system; and if it worked *in vacuo* without friction or disturbance, there would be no occasion for eking out its deficiencies, which would not then exist. But in the two first years of the war the machinery had not got into gear and full running order ; the army grew faster than the medical, or any other military department could ; and then we were necessary to take the place of great vacancies and acknowledged breaks in its true order.

These grew out of ignorant and untrained quartermasters, unskilled surgeons, imperfect administration, fallible generals, colonels, and captains ; while the deficiencies in the strained commissary and transportation and medical stores, both in medicines and clothing, added frightfully to the embarrassment.

Then, even general hospitals, the nearest home, were shabby, ill-designed buildings, with poor kitchens and no fit arrangements for washing, without adequate hospital clothing or delicate food, and with too much ignorance to accumulate a hospital fund, or perhaps unable to get it from our strained Treasury, when they knew better. This made for more than a year our work in furnishing clothes and supplies to general hospitals immense, even in Washington itself. What must it have been elsewhere?

But regimental hospitals, transports, hospital cars, and sick in quarters, cannot but be pressed for supplies, long after general hospitals are well off; and the further from their base, the worse off they are. There is no reason to doubt that but for the millions of supplies, clothing, and delicacies distributed to these places during the first two years of the war, the suffering would have been too horrible to relate.

Oftentimes our store and supplies have been the main dependence in some exigency of transportation, or change of base, or other military move.

The meeting of these field necessities compels us to keep a corps of Relief Agents with every considerable body of troops in the field, and their duties are as regular and as urgent now as they ever were.

But within the last year, we may concede that the military preparations of the Government are complete; that the Medical Department is working as nearly according to theory as is possible, and is theoretically able to meet all demands. Now, we are discovering that a state of war, in a country as wide as ours and on so vast a scale, creates an amount of misery in the army which the most perfect machinery of the Government, working in the most perfect way, cannot diminish to a point to satisfy humanity. We find that the exceptions to rules, which must be broad and general to cover a million men, are sufficient to require a special corps like ours (as large as a whole Medical Department in a moderate war) to meet them. And this is sufficiently proved by the fact, that humanity requires us to call as loudly as ever for stores, and will not permit us to diminish our working force.

Turning from General to

SPECIAL RELIEF,

we have perhaps quite as large a department as the other.

It is called special, not because adapted mostly to individual cases, but because it is not designed to eke out any thing which the Government undertakes to do at all. It is a pure invention of our own, and consists:

1. In providing Homes, with shelter and food and medical care and general superintendence, at all the main points where soldiers are found in any considerable numbers, for those soldiers who are not yet under the care of the Government, or have just got out of their care, or have somehow lost their status and cannot immediately regain it,—recruits, or men on leave, sick-leave or furlough, going to and fro; strays, men without skill to care for themselves, ignorant, under-witted, vicious; men discharged prematurely from hospitals; men found in the streets, or left behind by their regiments. It is enough to say that we estimate that every day we have 2,300 such men on our hands at night—in our beds and at our tables at each meal of the day. To see one of these Homes is to see all; and they are little military towns, with barracks, mess-rooms, hospitals, arsenals, baggage-rooms, accommodations for visitors, reading-rooms, places for soldiers' wives and children, &c.

2. Besides the Home proper, come "Lodges," which are miniature Homes, supplementary to the larger one, and meeting wants of a local character. We have, scattered though Washington, Paymaster, Pension, and Ticket-offices.

3. Under the name of Special Relief must come every thing done to secure pensions, or back pay, or transportation, to correct soldiers' papers, save them from sharpers, and dispel their ignorance and their fears.

To this is to be added our Battle Field work, too often described to make it necessary to say any thing here; then our Hospital Transports; then our Hospital Cars and Trains; then our Hospital Directory.

Now, to keep all this machinery in motion, there must be a power behind it to animate and direct it. This power is made up of men and money. The men are: The U. S. Sanitary Commission Board, the Standing Committee, the General Secretary, the three Associate Secretaries, the two great offices—one Washington, two Louisville—with the smaller office co-ordinating them at New York. Then the Medical Inspectors, Relief Agents, Ordinary Clerks, Special Aids in time of battle—about 200 in ordinary times. The Board has no salary. Cost of Agents is $15,000 a month.

Here Dr. B. described the office work in all its variety, by the diagram.

MONEY.

This great work cannot go on without money.

This money is got by keeping the public constantly informed of our wants and methods. Hence our advertising, our documents, our Sanitary Reporter and Bulletin, and the expense of printing. Hence our canvassing agents for money and supplies. California has been our principal resource for money.

OBJECTS OF THE MEETING.

Now, after this explanation of our work, it seems easier to come to the objects of this meeting :

1. Our Branches want to diffuse a spirit of confidence and of information among our constituents in all parts of the country, as to the wisdom, energy, economy, and success with which their supplies are disposed; and this they must acquire or strengthen here.

2. To interest the public in the principles and methods of the Commission, by what they learn, or add to their previous stock of learning.

3. To compare notes *with us*, telling us from their own fields of sympathy and observation what we need for our better guidance, and receiving such information from us as may help them in their field.

4. To compare methods, obstacles, and successes with each other, so that each may have the light of all; not so much in the way of agreeing on any common plan, as of obtaining counsel, inspiration, and light upon their own chosen path.

5. To give us the benefit of their experience as to the way *the Fairs* are going to affect our future supplies.

6. To tell us what our relations on the Home field are with other Commissions or State agencies.

7. To give us their idea of what canvassing agents should be and how work, and what they think of those they know.

8. To suggest any improvements in their working relations to the Commission.

9. To report, as far as they are prepared, upon the number of Societies they represent, the amount of work they have done, their past, present, and future, and to make any special written or verbal communications.

TRANSPORTATION IN TENNESSEE.

The following report, addressed by Mr. Butler to Dr. Newberry, our Associate Secretary in the West, December 26th, may serve to give our readers some idea of the difficulties with which the Commission has to contend in the transportation of supplies for the army in Tennessee :

In compliance with instructions received on the eve of our departure for Chattanooga, 6,000 pounds of the choicest stores were shipped from Louisville, and duly received and stored at Camp Nelson, to await transportation by the first train from Knoxville, Tenn.

On my arrival at Camp Nelson I found that a large shipment of stores, much more varied in kind, had been sent to my care for the same destination by the Cincinnati Branch. Orders for transportation for both shipments having been received separately from General Burnside, would have been promptly honored by Capt. Hall, A. Q. M. at Camp Nelson, had not the presence of Longstreet's rebels and sundry guerrilla forces on the various routes forbidden transportation to Knoxville. Under these circumstances, seven or eight days were unavoidably lost; but the great impediments were finally removed on the second day of the present month. A train of seventy teams was, in the space of one day, prepared for the journey, six of which were ordered to transport our stores.

Having previously calculated on loading 2,000 lbs. to each team, the transportation furnished might have been sufficient, but the A. Q. M. being better advised of the condition of the roads, imperatively restricted each team to 1,200 lbs., thus making it necessary to leave for the next train some of the less important boxes and barrels.

Leaving Camp Nelson on the 3d, we reached the foot of "Big Hill" at noon on the 7th without trouble or adventure; notwithstanding that the guerrillas had appeared in Mount Sterling, Ky., and were frequently reported in the vicinity of our train, we did not see them. We had been so far favored with a good road that we made moderate progress, but now the Big Hill was before us. The ascent, though only one mile, occupied two of the hardest days' work that we had yet known, and involved considerable destruction of mules, harness, and teams.

From the foot of Big Hill, we look in vain for any thing but rocks and ruts, consequently a few miles, from three to fifteen, suffice for a day's travel.

Stores are ruinously jolted; boxes and barrels unavoidably break; while rarely a day passes without a team being capsized into a creek, or river, or down a precipice.

We reached Camp Pitman on the 13th, distant from Camp Nelson about eighty-five miles.

Through the wagon-master of our train, I obtained an order from Captain Hall, which made our train independent of the brigade train, and consequently put an end to the annoying delays to which we had been repeatedly subjected.

At Camp Pitman, I found the 51st New York regiment guarding the post, and the Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Burd, was doing good among numberless obstacles.

In nearly every house from the top of Big Hill, I found that soldiers in every degree of disease had been left upon the hospitality and care of the people. In one house I found six soldiers occupying beds, and the constant attention of a widow lady and her two daughters. The poor sick and weary men were unable to proceed any further, and these patriotic Samaritans, whose brothers were among our soldiers in the field, were, out of their scanty means, administering to their relief and comfort.

Having received information of such necessities before leaving Camp Nelson, I had provided a quantity of beef extract, milk, crackers, an assortment of woollen under-wear, and sundry other things, which I found were actually required by men, sick, hungry, and naked.

I found Dr. Burd collecting these poor fellows, and affording all aid possible within his power. He had procured a building, which he had made as comfortable as his resources would allow, and he strove arduously to make his miscellaneous hospital as effective as the emergency demanded. I was gratified in being able to furnish him with a variety of stores for his sick patients, for I know him to be one of the kindest and most faithful of men.

During the forenoon of the 16th instant, I reached a house on Lincamp's Creek. and saw two men working at a coffin. After some inquiries, I learned that twelve days previously a soldier had stopded at the house, complaining of chronic diarrhœa and rheumatism. The people shared their morsel with him, and employed their limited knowledge of medicine for his relief.

The poor fellow also suffered with colic, which finally set in as an adjunct to his complicated disorders, and tortured him until he threw his armor down for his long rest in a mountain grave. I desired the sergeant of the guard to ascertain his effects, and finding only ninety cents, I threw the sum over to the poor family, as a very small remuneration for their attention to the soldier.

Turning one day, a mile from the road, I found a grave, which I was informed contained six soldiers who had died in the neighborhood; but no human scribe was found to register their names ere death made them oblivious to all but God. And so it has been with many others, how many God only knows. But in the case of him whose rude coffin was being made before my eyes, I especially realized my duty to the soldier, although dead, and also to his parents.

I gleaned from the family all the particulars necessary to advise his parents of his disease and death, and also the locality of his grave. I wrote at Barboursville to his father, Aaron Bachtle, Roanoke Post Office, Huntington county, Ind. The deceased soldier's address was Hiram Bachtle, Commany C, 115th Ind.

While so many soldiers, sick and debilitated, were passing over the mountains toward Camp Nelson, in most cases totally dependent on the meagre hospitality of the people, I ardently wished that this rude section of the country had resources similar to those of more favored people; for with all their poverty and abject indigence, which nearly every dwelling in some counties presented, I never knew a soldier denied participation in their meal of corn bread and bacon—vegetables, milk, butter, sugar, and coffee being great rarities among them.

Dwelling generally in what we would term miserable log houses, squalid women and children live month after month on their very scanty fare, and tell the stranger —soldier or citizen—of the fathers and sons in the Union army.

The winter is now upon them, and they are ragged. Their corn is about eaten, and they have little or no money to buy more, if perchance one might be found to sell. The alarming alternative is only too visible, and they shrink from it with dread. The necessities of the Government service had aided very materially in the exhaustion of their staple product, so that now there is almost nothing along the route to Cumberland Gap for either man or beast.

That they will need much and suffer extremely if unaided in their need during the winter, is indisputable; and as they are proverbial for their fidelity to the Government, and have invariably befriended our sick, straggling soldiers, they should receive our practical sympathy to the extent of our ability and their necessity. A word to philanthropists is sufficient.

Before leaving Camp Pitman we obtain a new supply of mules, harness, and wagon tongues, also a large amount of forage. No event, except such as have become of common occurrence, transpired until we had passed through Cumberland Gap on the 20th inst., when a rumor was afloat that no train would be allowed to pass on the direct road to Knoxville, as the rebels were infesting that portion of the country. By the advice of the Post Commandant we took the Jacksboro' road, though twenty miles further, as it was considered safe.

Leaving Cumberland Gap on the evening of 21st, we made better progress, while the forty guards, who had heretofore been employed in assisting the teams, were ordered by the officer in command to march in advance of the train, under arms.

Several encounters had taken place in

our vicinity between General Wilcox and Longstreet only a few days previously, and others were pending, while the cannonading was distinctly audible in our train.

There was marked anxiety among the guard to protect the train to Knoxville, as they knew the great need which existed in the hospital there.

On the evening of the 24th inst. we encamped twenty-two miles from Knoxville, and on the following morning I started on horseback, arriving in the recently besieged city before noon.

I soon met with our agent Mr. R. N. Strong, who was expecting me, and had procured two store-rooms adjoining each other. The train arriving on the following evening, the stores were transferred to the building on the morning of the 27th inst. I was surprised to find so little damage done to the stores, a few pounds of crackers and dried apples were the amount of the loss, after so long a journey over such miserable roads.

There are in Knoxville five hospitals, having their branches, and containing nearly 2,000 patients. While the Commissary has been recently well replenished, the supplies of the Medical Department were scanty. Our stores were anxiously expected, and they were joyfully received.

On Monday the 28th inst., Mr. Crary arrived from Chattanooga with three hundred packages of select stores. Other shipments have been arranged from and by way of Chattanooga. I am gratified with the intelligence that the river is opened for transportation from Bridgeport to Knoxville, so that our stores may not be subjected again to such delay as on this journey, however unavoidable.

"HOW ARE YOU? SANITARY."

BY F. B. HARTE.

Down the picket-guarded lane,
Rolled the comfort-laden wain,
Cheered by shouts that shook the plain,
Soldier-like and merry :

Phrases such as camps may teach,
Sabre cuts of Saxon speech,
Such as "Bully! "Them's the peach!"
"Wade in, Sanitary!"

Right and left the caissons drew
As the car went lumbering through,
Quick succeeding in review
Squadrons military;

Sunburnt men, with beards like frieze,
Smooth-faced boys and cries like these—
"U. S. San. Com." "That's the cheese!"
"Pass in, Sanitary."

In such cheer it struggled on
Till the battle front was won,
Then the car, its journey done,
Lo, was stationary;

And where bullets whistling fly
Came the sadder, fainter cry,
"Help us, brothers, ere we die—
Save us, Sanitary!"

Such the work. The phantom flies,
Wrapped in battle-clouds that rise ;
But the Brave, with dying eyes,
Veiled and visionary,

Sees the jasper gates swung wide,
Sees the parted throng outside,
Hears a voice to those that ride—
"Pass in, Sanitary!"

—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

THE METROPOLITAN FAIR.

SCOPE AND PLAN OF THE FAIR.

The Metropolitan Fair is not designed to be a mere fancy fair on a large scale. In its plan, as well as in its scope, it is intended to be worthy of the great city in which it is to be held, and of the great occasion to which it ministers. To that end, it must be universal in its attractions, enlisting all sympathies, pleasing all healthy tastes, and satisfying all honest needs. It must be democratic, but not vulgar; elegant, but not exclusive; fashionable, but not frivolous; popular, but not mediocre. Therefore, it is intended that this Fair shall afford, in its getting up, something for everybody to do; something, when it opens, for everybody to buy; something to gratify the sober and please the gay, to win the approval of the serious and the utilitarian, and at the same time to catch the eye and suit the taste of the young, the light-hearted, and even the trifling. The good, the rich, the well-to-do—those in humble life, the fashionable, the politicians, the clergy, the Chamber of Commerce, the Police, the Fire Department, the Trades' Unions, and all the great industrial establishments, should be interested in this Fair.

Chicago, Cincinnati, and Boston have done nobly in this direction, and it becomes New York to do, at least, as well in proportion to her means and the advantages of her position. There is an espe-

cial reason, too, why we of the Atlantic seaboard should make unusual exertions to fill the treasury of the Sanitary Commission; and this is, that of the money received by the Commission, considerably more than one-half has been contributed by our countrymen upon the shores of the Pacific—California, alone, having sent more than five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

For such a Fair as this, those who have undertaken its management will not *beg* contributions. They would not so insult the community of which they are a part, and of which, in this matter, they are but the servants and almoners, richly paid for the duties they perform by being made the channels through which its bounty passes. And, indeed, such is the alacrity and heartiness in this cause, that they have already received, even before the project was well brought before the public, such handsome and spontaneous offers from representatives of all departments of industry and commerce, that it is plain that this Fair will be not only an adequate expression of the loyalty, love, and devotion of the people of this city and State to their country and its defenders, but a grand and worthy Exposition of the Manufacturing, Agricultural, Commercial, Literary, and Artistic resources of New York.

The Fair being planned for these purposes, and under these auspices, its Managers invite all Merchants, Manufacturers, and Artisans to contribute of their wares to its stores, giving just such goods as they make or deal in—no matter what their character—just such goods as are made profitable to them by the power and prosperity of our country, which our soldiers and sailors are now fighting to maintain.

They invite the Farmers from all the country round to visit the Fair, and bring with them gifts from their barns, their stalls, their dairies, and their poultry yards.

They ask the Painters and Sculptors, who have done so much for the honor of our country, and all who are connected with the Fine Arts, either as creators, as dealers, or as amateurs fortunate in the possession of Art Treasures, to send their contributions, for exhibition or for sale. A proper gallery will be erected for the display and the due preservation of such works.

The peculiar interest which attaches to Literature, warrants the establishment of a special department, to supply which Publishers and Booksellers are confidently looked to. In this department will be a Second-Hand Book Stall, to which contributions are asked from the shelves of those who are cumbered with duplicate copies, or who have books which they no longer use.

Connected with the department of Literature will be a table for the exposition and sale of valuable Autographs.

On the Musicians, Musical Instrument Makers, and Music Dealers, the Managers confidently rely for a worthy representation in this Fair of the beautiful art of which they are the ministers, by the giving of Musical performances, and of instruments and music for sale.

The Managers and Artists of the various Theatres of the city are invited to follow the example already set by some of their number, in offering to set apart one evening during the Fair, the performances on which shall be for the benefit of its fund.

It is hoped that our Public Schools, and Public Institutions of a benevolent character, may contribute in some fitting manner to the interest of this Fair.

To the public spirit and the patriotism of the Fire Department and the Police, the Managers feel that they may look for even more than that habitually honorable and efficient discharge of duty on their part which would insure the preservation of property consecrated to the use of those who are suffering in their country's cause. But it is also hoped that in some other manner, as may be most agreeable to themselves, they may bear a part in this patriotic undertaking.

As appropriate to the occasion of this Fair a department of Arms and Trophies will be established, to which not only arms and flags captured in the present war, but all articles of this kind which have an historical or an intrinsic interest will be acceptable contributions, either for sale or for exhibition.

An Old Curiosity Shop will afford all those persons who have interesting relics of the past in their possession to enable others to share the pleasure of examining them. Contributions of noteworthy character and value have already been received for this department. It should be particularly stated whether articles of this kind are for sale or only for exhibition.

A Newspaper will be published daily, which, in addition to the latest telegraphic news up to the time of going to press, will contain short and piquant articles upon incidents of the day, and especially of the Fair.

A POST OFFICE will be established, at the illegality of which it is hoped that the Honorable the Postmaster-General will wink, if official dignity be capable of such an act, and at the novel promptness and regularity of which it is believed the public will wonder.

As people cannot see all these things, and do all these things, and buy all these things, without exhaustion of the vital forces, a RESTAURANT of corresponding magnitude and completeness will be established, the arrangements of which, supervised by ladies and gentlemen of taste and discretion in such matters, will be in the immediate hands of an accomplished public caterer.

The accomplishment of this grateful but multitudinous task has been placed in the hands of the undersigned Executive Committees, who depend chiefly, however, upon the hearty co-operation of the General Committee of Managers, from which the body of the various Special Committees are mainly recruited.

A member of the Executive Committee will be at the head of each Special Committee, whether of ladies or of gentlemen. It is expected that the members of the ladies' and gentlemen's Special Committees will be in constant communication and act together, reporting through the respective heads of their committees to the respective Executive Committees.

It is intended that, if practicable, each city in the State which desires that its contributions shall be kept together, shall have a separate table or space specially set apart for them, and that each of these cities shall be represented in the General Committee of Management.

A certain number of each Executive Committee will be at its Office—the Ladies' at No. 2 Great Jones Street, the Gentlemen's at 842 Broadway, every day, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Contributions to the Fair are to be sent to the Receiving Depot, No. 2 Great Jones Street, where they will be credited to their givers, and their receipt acknowledged by the proper committee.

It is particularly requested that each contribution be plainly marked with the name of the contributor, for exposition during the Fair, and that each article be accompained by a memorandum of its value.

To carry out the design of the Fair in accordance with the spirit in which it has been planned, it has been thought proper to adopt the following

REGULATIONS.

1.—Every application by note for contributions shall be upon paper bearing the symbol of the Fair, and signed in writing by a member of the Executive Committee; and every member of a Special Committee shall be provided with a similar certificate of authority.

2.—It is earnestly requested that all contributions in money be sent to the Treasurer, to whose order all checks should be made payable.

3.—At the Fair every article shall be sold at its current market value, when that is determinable.

4.—In all raffles the number of tickets sold shall not exceed the original valuation of the articles raffled for.

5.—No person shall be importuned to buy articles or tickets for raffles.

6.—In every department a cashier shall be appointed to receive money and make change.

7.—No punch shall be sold.

OFFICERS.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

President,.....Mrs. Hamilton Fish.
First Vice-President,.. " David Lane.
Second Vice-President, " A. V. Stout.
Treasurer,..... " Ellen R. Strong.
Secretary,..... " John Sherwood.
Assistant Secretary,....Miss Catherine Nash.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

[*Office No.* 2 *Great Jones Street.*]

Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts, Francis Lieber, William H. Van Buren, Richard M. Hunt, Jonathan Sturges, Alfred Schermerhorn, David Dudley Field, Samuel G. Courtney, Daniel Le Roy, Benjamin Nathan, John Jacob Astor, Gurdon Buck, Ogden Hoffman, Josiah S. Colgate, Frank E. Howe, John A. Dix, Alexander Hamilton, Jr., Thomas F. Meagher, Philip Hamilton, Frederick Billings, Morris Ketchum, Miss Catherine Hone.

GENTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

President,.....Major-Gen. John A. Dix.
First Vice-President,...Mr. Jonathan Sturges.
Second Vice-President,. " James T. Brady.
Chairman of Gen. Com'ee " Wilson G. Hunt.
Secretary,..... " Rich'd Grant White.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

[*Office No.* 842 *Broadway.*]

Mr. George Griswold Gray,.. *Chairman.*
" Richard Grant White,... *Secretary.*

Messrs. Marshall O. Roberts, Arthur Leary, James L. Kennedy, Charles H. Marshall, Alex. Van Renssalaer, Nathaniel P. Hosack, Peter Marie, Abraham M. Cozzens, Lawrence R. Jerome, William T. Blodgett, Fletcher Harper, Lloyd Aspinwall, William Scharfenberg, Levi P. Morton, Christian E. Detmold, Henry Chauncey, Charles Astor Bristed, Thomas Acton, C. Godfrey Gunther, Henry S. Fearing, Augustus R. Macdonough, Francis A. Stout, James A. Roosevelt, Le Grand B. Cannon, Edward Delano, John F. Kensett, James F. Ruggles, Moses Lazarus, Joseph G. Heywood, Philetus T. Holt, Uriel A. Murdock, Elliott F. Shepard, Edward Matthews, S. B. Janes.

HEADS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.*

Arrangements.—Mrs. R. M. Hunt. Mr. George Griswold Gray.

Art—Including Artists' Materials.—Mrs. Jonathan Stuges. Mr. John F. Kensett.

Arms and Trophies, including Sporting Materials.—Mr. William T. Blodgett.

Agricultural Products and Implements.—Mr. Nathaniel P. Hosack.

Bakers.—Mrs. Richard M. Hunt. Mr. Alexander Van Renssalaer.

Boots and Shoes.—Mrs. D. Bridgham. Mr. Francis A. Stout

Building.—Mr. George Griswold Gray.

Confectionery.—Mrs. H. Fay. Mr. Alexander Van Rensselaer.

Cabinet Work, Upholstery, Carpets, and Looking-Glasses.—Mrs. George M. Miller. Mr. James A. Roosevelt.

Charity.—Mrs. Ogden Hoffman.

Contributors from without the City.—Mr. Elliott T. Shephard.

Drama and Public Amusements.—Mrs. John Sherwood. Mr. Richard Grant White.

Dress Making.—Mrs. G. K. Forsyth.

Drugs and Perfumery.—Mrs. Wm. H. Van Buren. Mr. James L. Kennedy.

Furs, Hats and Caps, and Clothing.—Mrs. Jaudon. Mr. Henry S. Fearing.

Florists.—Mrs. Frank E. Howe.

Flour, Grain and Provisions.—Mrs. H. K. Bogert. Mr. Philetus H. Holt.

Finance.—Mr. Leonard W. Jerome. Mr. John H. Gourlie.

Hardware, House Furnishing, and Metals.—Mrs. Mitchell. Mr. Uriel A. Murdock.

India Rubber Goods.—Mrs. C. R. Degen. Mr. Francis A. Stout.

Jewelry and Retail Fancy Goods.—Mrs. William Parker. Mr. Peter Marie.

Lingeries and Trimmings.—Mrs. William T. Blodgett.

Millinery.—Mrs. Clymer.

Music—Including Musical Instruments.—Mrs. H. W. Hills. Mr. William Scharfenberg.

Newspaper.—Mrs. Charles Butler. Mr. Augustus R. Macdonough.

Old Curiosity Shop.—Mrs. Wolcott Gibbs.

Optical, Mathematical, and Surgical Instruments, Carriages and Saddlery.—Mr. Christian E. Detmold.

Plumbing, Gas-Fitting, Stoves and Heaters.—Mr. Edward Delano.

Porcelain and Glass.—Mrs. Thomas F. Meagher. Mr. Abraham M. Cozzens.

Police.—Mr. Thomas C. Acton.

Post Office.—Mrs. Charles E. Strong. Mr. Augustus R. Macdonough.

Printing, Stationery, Photographs, and Playing Cards.—Mr. James F. Ruggles.

Private Schools.—Mrs. Vincenzio Botta.

Public Charities.—Mrs. D. Fearing.

Public Conveyances and Transportation.—Mr. Le Grand B. Cannon.

Public Schools.—Mrs. George Vandenhoff. Mr. Richard Grant White.

Publishers and Booksellers.—Mrs. Francis Lieber. Mr. Fletcher Harper.

Receiving Committee.—Mrs. Alexander Hamilton. Mrs. Alfred Schermerhorn.

Restaurant.—Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts. Mr. Abraham M. Cozzens.

Retail Dry Goods.—Mrs. John Van Vechten.

Retail Groceries.—Mrs. De La Montaigne. Mr. Joseph C. Heywood.

Ships and Shipbuilding.—Mr. Charles H. Marshall.

Stonework and Masonry.—Mrs. Henry A. Coit.

Thread and Needles.—Miss Cary.

Toys and Small Wares.—Mrs. Sidney Ashmore. Mr. James L. Kennedy.

Visiting Committee.—Mrs. S. G. Courtney, Mrs. Gurdon Buck.

Wholesale Dry Goods.—Mrs. A. V. Stout. Mr. Levi P. Morton.

Wholesale Fancy Goods.—Mrs. Frank E. Howe.

Wholesale Groceries.—Mrs. William H. Aspinwall. Mr. Lloyd Aspinwall.

Wines, Liquors, Tobacco, Fruits, &c.—Mr. Henry Chauncey.

ELIZABETH G. SHERWOOD,
Sec. Ladies' Exec. Committee.

RICH'D GRANT WHITE,
Sec. Gentlemen's Exec. Committee.

* List of the members of the General Committee, and of the various Special Committees, will be published as soon as they are completed.

THE GREAT WESTERN SANITARY FAIR.

CINCINNATI, January 14, 1864.

REV. DR. H. W. BELLOWS,
President U. S. Sanitary Commission.

MY DEAR SIR: Your manuscript came duly to hand some days since, and was handed to the compiler of the history of our Fair.

I am glad to see the movements for your Metropolitan Fair. It ought to have the character from our chief city, and greatly exceed all that any other city could do. We here feel that those who have contributed have done nobly; but there are many who have up to this time denied themselves the satisfaction of having contributed to the comfort of our national defenders, through this Fair, the greatest ever yet held on this continent. Such may yet, by acting promptly, find their names recorded in our history as friends of our soldiers. We expect to realize at least $200,000 net. Unavoidable circumstances have operated against our realizing the sum we aimed at of $250,000. Those participating in the Fair have reason to be grateful for being able to devote that sum to the help and comfort of men who deserve tenfold more at the hands of their fellow-citizens.

It is a satisfaction to know that as yet Cincinnati is in advance of all others; but it would afford us more satisfaction to know that our Metropolitan city, so indebted to our Great West for its wealth and prosperity, would average at least one dollar to each of its population, and thus raise one million of dollars. The large population residing without the city limits, yet depending on the commerce of your city, ought

to contribute at least enough to make up any deficiency of your people to average one dollar each. Suppose they should thus do, how small a sum would that furnish, on an average, to each of our soldiers, sacrificing themselves that our and your lives and property should be sacred?

Some of your noble merchants and citizens, with a few of such in Boston and Philadelphia, have liberally contributed to our efforts to supply our soldiers without regard to their nativity or residence.

The moral power of the fairs that have been held is doing much to encourage re-enlisting, and to convince the South of the folly of persisting in its madness against a united North. It is beginning to be seen in the North that voluntary offerings of the people are more economical in outlay of money and life, than to simply depend on legal requirements. One million of dollars furnished by your city as a voluntary offering, will carry more power in it than an outlay of one hundred millions in the usual form of appropriations that the people would have to pay at last. It will not only discourage the rebels in the South, but their allies in the North. As a people, we must act for ourselves, and thus strengthen our Government, and shorten and cheapen the war in treasure and blood. Sound humanity and economy demand this of us.

Having the numbers, wealth, and interests to be promoted, you have only to will that you may thus act justly toward those sacrificing their all for you, and the million of dollars will promptly come, and no one feel the poorer for it. Less than that would not supply needed comforts for our soldiers, nor be a fit offering or example for the chief city of this continent. All Europe would be forced to respect you for it, while our Great West would honor and be proud of you for so doing.

I trust that amount will be your final report.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDGAR CONKLING,
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Great Western Sanitary Fair.

RELIEF WORK AT NEW ORLEANS.

Our special relief agent at New Orleans, Mr. Bullard, writes:

I herewith sent you a report of the Special Relief work in this department from the date of our organization to January 1st, 1864.

My communication will be limited to a statistical report of the "Soldiers' Home," as returned to me by the superintendent, Mr. Nute, since the transfer from the Western Sanitary Commission; and a brief record of the work in the Special Relief Office. The necessity for this office, and the importance of this branch of the work, were apparent from the first. There was some delay in organizing while the negotiations for the Home were pending, since the question of locality was one of considerable importance.

So far I have had the hearty co-operation of the several paymasters with whom I have come in contact. Every facility is afforded for the prompt and favorable settlement of all claims of invalid discharged soldiers, and for the adjustment of all imperfect papers which *can* be given in a department so far removed from Washington.

As it becomes known that there is an office in New Orleans, where all sorts of inquiries are kindly and freely answered, there is a daily increase of applicants for various degrees of assistance. The minor cases are made up, in part, from discharged soldiers, by questions of transportation, their just dues in mileage and subsistence, and the never-failing subject of bounties. Furloughed soldiers are constantly applying for information as to how they may draw the back pay on which they depend for means to defray their expenses, as they find themselves bewildered in a large city, and uncertain about the matter of transportation. Both of these classes of soldiers are deriving a great benefit from the Home. Many of them, after reaching New Orleans, perhaps from a distant part of the department, are obliged to wait here till a Government transport is ready for New York or Cairo. There have been times when "Military necessity" has called off all such boats for some expedition. Under such circumstances, the poor fellows must stay in this city at their own expense, perhaps for two or three weeks. Without the "Home" for a resting-place, it will be readily understood that such delay would be most disastrous to them.

When the cards and posters for this office were first issued, in which assistance was promised in the matter of arrears of pay, bounty, and pensions, it was supposed that very little could be done in this department other than on discharge papers, directly through the paymaster; and by directing discharged soldiers going home to reliable agencies north. But it soon became apparent that a large number of applications would be made from claimants for the pay and bounty of deceased Louisiana soldiers, and for pension. These claimants are mostly widows and dependent relatives, really needing all that is due from Government.

There are some difficulties attending this work here, not so common in other sections; some uncertainty as to what would be accepted in Washington; what evidence would be required of the loyalty of the claimants and witnesses. And in the present condition of the courts in this State, it was a question before whom to have the necessary acknowledgments made. I have arranged with the Judge of the First Justice Court, appointed by the Military Governor, who has very kindly offered to assist me in this work; and Governor Shepley will attach his official certificate to each application going to the Second Auditor's Office. The forms sent me do not indicate the necessity of such certificate on pension claims.

I have forwarded applications for three widows to the Second Auditor's, and for the same parties for pensions. One of these was a free colored woman; her husband died while in the service. She brought a certified copy of marriage license, and record of marriage; and one of the witnesses was the colored pastor who married them. We sent on this as a test. Probably there will be some trouble in furnishing satisfactory evidence of marriage relation in a majority of cases among the colored people.

Besides, I do not know what rule, if any, has been adopted relative to the Corps d'Afrique touching these matters.

Some dozen or more cases are either waiting further action, or have been dismissed as too questionable.

No special efforts are being made to increase this branch of the work, nor is it thought expedient to do so till we learn how our experiments have been received.

The office was opened about the 20th of November. But little was done during the first ten days. There was some delay in getting cards and posters printed and properly circulated, and considerable time necessarily consumed in completing the arrangements relative to the Home.

Up to January 1st, 1864, the number of cases recorded in the journal is forty-eight. Of these, twenty-one have received personal aid in the collection of their pay. Amount collected $3,289.44.

The Paymaster prefers that all soldiers who are able should present their own papers. He has shown great kindness in furthering my efforts in behalf of those needing assistance. I therefore make it a point to send to him such soldiers as can comfortably walk the short distance to his office, providing their papers are correct. By this course the Major understands that my object is simply to help those unable to help themselves. I am seldom denied any reasonable favor for a sick or wounded soldier.

The rule here with a discharged soldier is, for the Paymaster to give him an order for transportation, either to New York or to Cairo, and allow him mileage for the rest of the way to the place of enlistment, with the usual rate of subsistence for the whole distance. This order the Quartermaster endorses, giving the name of the transport on which it will be good for passage. The man gets by this simply steerage privileges, and takes along his own rations.

The very feeble can hardly endure the hardships of such transportation. The Paymaster makes exceptions in favor of extreme cases; and when I have stated that a man whose papers I hand in is not able to go by Government transport, he allows him mileage. I use this advantage cautiously, that I may not fail in the really deserving cases.

W. S. Bullard is acting as clerk in the office of the Home. The experience that he has acquired in Baltimore with soldiers' papers, enables him to be of considerable service to the Special Relief office while doing his work for the Home.

He is instructed to examine the papers of the discharged soldiers as they come in, and direct those who need no special aid to the Paymaster. This, of course, reduces the number of applicants at my office; but the work is done, and another object is attained. The soldier is put right at the start. If there is any thing wrong about the papers, or the soldier under false impressions thinks there is, it is better that these things be looked after before a collision with officials. I have during the past month kept approximate notes of the calls at this office for advice or direction, when not of such importance as to require record in journal. The number so recorded is about two hundred,

There is one noticeable point of difference between the Special Relief work in this department and that in Washington. So far, we have had no cases of discharged soldiers with those troublesome records against them on the rolls, of absence without leave, desertion, &c. This department is comparatively isolated. The men, when sick or wounded, are not exposed to an indefinite round of transfer from hospital to hospital, with a final drifting into Convalescent Camp, to be discharged without descriptive lists. The surgeon of a hospital, all of whose inmates are from the department, can generally, with proper effort, obtain the military history of each man before discharging him. Were it otherwise, it would be ex-

tremely difficult to get such papers corrected and approved at this distance from Washington.

Under the present arrangements of the Home great good is being done for the soldiers. Improvements in the working will be introduced as fast as they can be judiciously suggested.

A WORD ABOUT SALARIES.

WASHINGTON, January 13, 1864.

Dr. C. R. AGNEW,

MY DEAR SIR: You ask me to give you some information as to our Field Relief Corps in the Army of the Potomac, which I shall now attempt in as few words as possible.

At present we have one four-horse wagon and one cart, with twelve or fourteen team and saddle horses, mostly pretty thoroughly used up by hard work during the six months' service they have seen in the army.

Our field supply store-house is at Brandy Station, where the agents have their headquarters, and where also the two Sanitary Inspectors, Drs. Gordon Winslow and Isaac Fairchild, have their headquarters. The agents move from this central point out to their respective fields of duty, on horseback. The agent of the Fifth Corps is at present an exception to this rule, because that corps—being employed as railroad guard—is scattered over a very wide field, and hence the necessity that he should live in it. When at headquarters, they are all expected to help at all work required by the needs of the Sanitary Commission family—to build houses, cut wood, cook, issue goods, draw water, harness horses, feed and nurse wounded men—in short, to do good Samaritan work generally.

The estimated expense for the maintenance of this corps in winter is about $750 per month, which estimate will probably cover all the expense of the machinery for distributing supplies in the Army of the Potomac. I give the names of the corps and the pay allowed each man, which pay will hardly cover the expenses of clothing and sundries that are needed by these gentlemen. It will be understood that this subsistence is furnished by the Commission:

S. Warner Johnson, Superintendent, Volunteer.	
Capt. Isaac Harris, Assist. Supt.,	$60
Charles S. Clampitt, Field Storekeeper	45
Assist. "	45
Wm. F. Dubosq, Acting Relief Agent	45
S. M. Blazier, " " "	45
Charles C. Harris, " " "	45
George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent	45
David S. Pope, " "	45
W. C. Whittelsey, Messenger	45
Henry C. Freeman, Messenger	30
G. W. Norris, Teamster	30
Thomas Mulkearn, "	30
John Smith, "	30
Charles Toft, "	30
Oscar Little, "	30
Three colored men, (temporarily)	50
Subsistence for family about	100
	$750

The number of teamsters may seem large, but the men were each in charge of a team until the first instant; and rather than turn them adrift now in mid-winter, I propose to use them as cooks and general assistants—thus enabling us to get rid of our contraband assistants in the field. These teamsters also act occasionally as messengers, and lend some help at the central stables. As we had considerable trouble in securing reliable men for these positions, it was thought best to keep them in places where we would be obliged to secure other labor.

It is proper to state, in order that you may understand the real nature of the pittance paid this corps, that laborers in Washington receive from $1.25 to $1.50 per day; carpenters from $2.50 to $3.00; masons $3.00, and painters $3.00.

I should have stated, as the First Army Corps is quartered around Culpepper, that a sub-store-house has been established there, which is managed by Mr. Dubosq, aided by a teamster.

The results of the work of this corps can best be told by conversation with the medical directors of divisions and brigades, who have personally been made acquainted with it.

Yours, respectfully,

LEWIS H. STIMER,

Chief Inspector U. S. San. Com., Army of Potomac, etc.

It is sometimes said that the Commission spends large sums of money for salaries. The above simple statement may be taken as indicative of the principles which influence the Commission and its employees in the matter of salaries. The sums paid to the latter are such as would not secure in any industrial field the services of persons actuated merely by the desire to obtain a pecuniary return for their labor. The sums paid by us are barely sufficient for the maintenance of those whom we employ, most of whom carry to their duties a degree and character of self-denial and patriotic devotion, to which common delicacy forbids at this time prolonged allusion.

The following circular has been addressed to the Field Relief Corps of the United States Sanitary Commission by the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Potomac Army. It will give an idea of the care taken by the Commission in this part of their work:

It is desired that visits on the part of the agents be not only made to division hospitals, but also that regimental hospitals be visited; and above all, that the agents become acquainted with the wants of the *men*. While you should cultivate the most intimate relations with the officers, you must recollect that the relief of suffering and want among the men is the end and design of the Field Relief Corps; that it is for this the liberal people of our land are freely spending their money, and to this object every relief agent in the Field Corps must consider himself devoted. What has been known as special relief, that is, relief to individual cases, must be frequently administered. Find out where want and suffering exist, try to alleviate them—*through* the surgeons, if possible—if not in this way, then *with* the surgeon's consent. Let instances of this kind fill your reports. They will tell in the way of stimulating the people to additional liberality. And, moreover, weekly reports, giving a journal of each day's work, must be sent in. This rule, as I have stated in my letter of 9th inst., is imperative.

Your attention is asked to the following rules, which were issued July 30, 1863, for the governance of the Field Corps:

"The relief agents, after their assignment to corps by the superintendent, will remain in connection with the same until relieved. Leaves of absence for twenty-four hours may be granted by the superintendent; when a longer furlough is required, it must be approved by the Chief Inspector, or some one representing him at his office. In every case of a visit to Washington, the agent must report at the office of the Chief Inspector.

"Although relief agents may have been assigned to corps, it is not to be understood by them that their duties end with these. Whereever want in the army comes to their knowledge in field hospital, in regiment, or in the single soldier by the wayside, it is their duty to try and alleviate it.

"The agents must look upon themselves as helpers, and not interferers with the routine of military duty. They have no time for what is known as indolent pleasure. So long as they remain in the field, energetic work is required. When the system will not admit of this, they should ask at once to be relieved by other and fresher spirits.

"As most of the acting relief agents are new to the work, it has been deemed proper to give the views held as regulating and governing the corps by the Inspector in charge."

"SOLDIERS' HOMES" IN TENNESSEE.

The reports from the Soldiers' Lodge at Memphis, Tennessee, for the five weeks ending January 2d, show that during that period the number admitted was 1,962, coming from seventeen different States. The number of meals furnished was 6,354; the number of lodgings, 1,849. The average number cared for each day was, the first week, 116; the second, 91; the third, 103; the fourth, 136; and the fifth, 99. Transportation was procured for 59; defective papers were corrected for 14; 13 were aided in drawing pay. At the Nashville Home there have been admitted, during the five weeks ending January 2d, 2,367, coming from seventeen different States. The number of meals furnished was 8,149; the number of lodgings, 3,735. The average number cared for each day was, the first week, 166; the second, 184; the third, 155; the fourth, 201; the fifth, 159. Transportation was procured for 1,228, and 107 were aided in drawing pay. The total amount of pay collected and paid over during the five weeks, was $15,215.45.

CORRESPONDENCE.

IRVINGTON, *West Chester Co.*,
January 20th.

To the Editor of the Sanitary Bulletin:

In these days of monster city fairs, it may interest some of your readers to hear how a village fair, recently held in Irvington, N. Y., was started and carried through, and what its results have been.

This village, like so many others, began early in the war, with sewing circles contributing to the comfort of our soldiers, through the Sanitary Commission. As times went on, the interest in the meetings flagged; they grew smaller, and finally ceased—when last summer the ladies again took hold of the work in earnest, and reorganized their society, adopting a plan circulated by the Woman's Central Association of Relief.

The principal feature of this plan is, to make the young people connected with the society support it, by collecting a monthly subscription of not over twenty cents a head. By keeping strictly to the rules of the society, and enforcing them in a business-like manner, a matter which "Soldiers' Aid Societies" are too apt to neglect, the new society worked admirably. Its meetings were so well attended, that the funds proved inadequate to supply material for the ready workers. So a fair was proposed, was planned, and worked for with some hesitations and anticipations of small results. To the surprise of those engaged in it, they soon found the interest of the whole neighborhood gathered around their modest undertaking. The whole village took it up as *their* Fair. Everybody wished to have a hand in it. Some one stood ready to give the room; another to furnish a stove; others to clean the room and get

it in order; and so on down to the very boards that made the tables. Labor, policeing, all—was freely given, with a heartiness and good will which surprised and delighted the managers. The result was, that in a village of twelve years' growth, this Fair, open only for one day, secured to the society, with all expenses paid, seventeen hundred dollars.

Three hundred dollars of this were sent, by a unanimous vote of the ladies, to the Treasurer of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. It seemed but little to send, they thought, "but it might make three hundred men a little more comfortable."

To J. Foster Jenkins, M.D.
General Secretary.

Dear Sir: At Elmira, N. Y., the Commission has a home. It lives in the hearts of the people of that enterprising town. The following are some of the evidences of it: On the 15th of July, 1862, they established a Soldiers' Home, near to the Railroad Depot, furnished it with cots, beds, &c., and opened it for the reception of soldiers who pass over the great throughfare to the Capital from Central New York. The funds for its organization were contributed by a dramatic and musical association which was raised for the purpose.

The Misses Tyler devote their time to the care of the sick and homeless, of whom five thousand and seven hundred have been cared for. It is conducted on the same principle and under the same inspiring genius that has animated and sustained all the Homes and Lodges of the Commission in other places. The State has recently appropriated two thousand dollars for its support, and thus the people are set free from any local hinderance to their laboring heartily for the general work. As the average expense of maintaining it is not more than seventy dollars per month the State appropriation will sustain it for a long time.

On Sunday evening, the 10th inst., a large and enthusiastic meeting was held at Ely Hall, and it was my privilege to meet the various clergymen and a multitude of citizens there in behalf of the Commission. The churches being generally closed by common consent, there was no interruption to a full attendance. The Rev. Dr. Lincoln of the Baptist church presided. At the close of the address the Rev. Dr. Curtis offered a resolution endorsing the principles and plans of the Commission, and urging its claims upon the people by forcible remarks. Rev. T. K. Beecher seconded the resolution, by an earnest speech. The resolution was adopted by the standing vote of the great congregation. On Monday evening a conference of some fifty or more of the leading minds of the town was held to perfect a systematized plan of collecting stated subscriptions from the people; and the ministers of the different congregations agreed to keep the people educated to the work, by holding quarterly union meetings, one of their members to address the people on the current history of the war and the operations of the Commission.

Mrs. A. Stuart, the associate manager, and her co-laborers in the cause, are most earnest and thorough, and much may be expected of them in the future. The smaller places in the surrounding country are being awakened, and you will soon hear of the Southern Tier Sanitary Fair in such a way as will do good to your honored Treasurer. In my next I will furnish you with an account of the Fair, if the good ladies of Chemung, will have it completed by that time. They are resolved to do a good work.

North Pitcher, Chenango Co., N. Y.,
January 15, 1864.

George T. Strong, Esq:

Dear Sir: Enclosed please find draft for $146.15—the result of a festival held for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers. We did not know whether it would be better to send the cash, or purchase goods and manufacture garments. Will you, in your receipt, please state which would be best, as it may govern us in the future.

This contribution is from a section of the country that is sparsely settled; no village—but a farming community. It is nothing more than what any neighborhood might raise by a little effort. All we did was to give notice that there would be a festival for the sick and wounded soldiers, and all that attended would be expected to bring in some refreshments. Also, the young people got up a little entertainment, by the way of scenes, tableaux, &c., &c., at the conclusion, solicited donations, the result of which, to our surprise, amounted to over one hundred and fifty dollars.

All it wants in almost any community, is for a few active men and women to start, and the like result may be obtained.

Yours, truly,
J. S. Blackman.

Rondout, N. Y.

"It would give us great satisfaction to contribute to the *Bulletin* some information that would encourage and stimulate our fellow workers everywhere; but unfortunately our

Society has had a struggling existence, and owes its continuance to a faithful few. We have received during the past week forty dollars from one of our young men, the amount realized from the sale of an old watch bequeathed him by his grandfather, and for many years an heir-loom. Perhaps this may remind some one of some like treasure hidden and useless except as an heir-loom, and suggest how greatly enhanced its value as such must be by being devoted to such a cause."

"WHY DOES THE COMMISSION PAY SALARIES TO ITS AGENTS?"

The Commission has from the first enjoyed a degree of public favor and confidence greater than it had any right to expect. Certain objections, however, are made to its system and methods which require a brief notice, though they have for the most part been already anticipated.

The objection that has been made to its employing permanent salaried officers, instead of unpaid volunteers, giving a fortnight or a month each to the work of Army Relief, is untenable and short-sighted. It has to distribute millions of dollars worth of bulky stores over an area of many thousand square miles. This is, in a merely business point of view, a work of serious magnitude. It is, moreover, a work of special delicacy and difficulty, because it must be so done as not to interfere with the machinery of the army, or weaken the reliance of the men upon their officers. Without a corps of agents who understand their work, give their whole time to it, and are bound to perform definite service during a definite period, loss, waste, and misapplication of supplies are inevitable. This branch of the Commission's work may fairly be compared with that of our largest railroads and express companies, and is at least as worthy of being well and economically done. But how long would any railroad corporation keep out of the hands of a Receiver, if it confided its freight business to volunteers over whom it could exercise no real control, and who felt themselves at full liberty to leave its service whenever they tired of it, or whenever they thought themselves overworked or unfairly criticized, instead of employing superintendents, clerks, and porters, engaged in the usual way and on the usual terms? The poetry of the Relief Agent's work may be spoiled if he receive a salary, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred its practical value to the army is doubled. It would be easy to name splendid exceptions to this rule, but they are only exceptions.

The work of Army Relief, like every other practical and serious business, requires skill which can be got only by experience, and men cannot, as a general rule, be secured for service long enough to acquire experience and skill, unless they receive moderate pay. But the difference between a skilled and an unskilled agent is equal to a difference of at least fifty per cent. in the amount of practical good each can do the soldier with the stores entrusted to him; and it costs the Commission less than two per cent. on the estimated value of its supplies to distribute them through skilled salaried agents, instead of unskilled volunteers. This is not all. The volunteer is necessarily unacquainted with the complex regulations under which Government supplies the wants of the Army, for thorough familiarity with their practical working can be acquired only by months of actual contact and experience. He cannot tell, therefore, when called upon to relieve a regiment or a hospital, whether its officers have done or have neglected their duty, and whether they can or cannot promptly obtain what is needed through regular official channels. His impulses prompt him of course instantly to relieve the suffering he sees before him. He distributes his supplies at once, asking no questions, and goes home thankful that he has been enabled to relieve so much destitution and distress. But he has too often been merely covering up the shortcomings of some inefficient officer paid by Government to do precisely the same thing, and has thus shielded him from exposure and dismissal, and done the army in the long run more harm than good.

The Commission avoids this danger. It reserves its supplies for the cases of accidental failure which must from time to time occur in the working of every military system, and especially of one newly organized on so vast a scale as ours, and seeks rather to strengthen the official agencies through which Government provides for the army, than to set itself up as a rival source of supply, and thus weaken the confidence of the men in their military superiors.

The more general charge that the Commission's system is a costly one, is believed to be wholly unfounded. Its salaries are on a most moderate scale. It may be proper here distinctly to state, that no member of the Commission receives, or ever has received, a dollar from its treasury, or from any other quarter, in the shape of salary, or compensation for his services as Commissioner. Four of its members hold office, viz.: its President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, and its Associate Secretary at Louisville. Of these, the first three have been able to do their official work without absolutely sacrificing all their other duties, and they have done it without dreaming of "pay" from any quarter.

The Associate Secretary, who has removed his home from Cleveland to Louisville, abandoned his profession, and devoted his whole time and energies to his official work, receives a moderate salary. Thanks to the co-operation of Government and the liberality of Railroad, Telegraph, and Express Companies, and other private agencies, its expenses for transportation and telegraphing are not one-tenth of what they would otherwise be. A reference to the statistics given in Document 69 of the cost of its special relief system at Washington, Alexandria, and Annapolis, show how much work it has done at comparatively trifling expense. The value of the supplies it has actually issued to the army from its numerous depots, East and West, can only be estimated, and these estimates vary largely, the lowest estimate being about four millions of dollars, and the highest exceeding seven.

These supplies have been carried all over the country, from Maine to Texas, and from Washington to Vicksburg, in charge of special agents, and deposited in Relief Stations where store-keepers are necessarily engaged to protect them, and Relief Agents to distribute them; yet this great mass of bulky stores has been moved, stored at the depots, moved to the front, stored again in temporary depots, and then distributed, at a total expense to the Central Treasury of less than one and seven-eighths per cent. on their lowest valuation.

The Commission is of course the permanent subject of a due proportion of the swarms of "authentic statements," "valuable reports," which are daily put in circulation about the army and everybody connected with it; and that as regards the Commission many of them are disparaging, need excite no surprise.

It must be remembered that the work of the Commission necessarily makes it enemies. Medical and other officers who know that their incapacity or indolence has been detected and noted by a relief agent or inspector, naturally think it a meddlesome and mischievous organization, and are always ready to report, and sometimes to embellish and magnify, every case of failure in its work. Officers of the Medical Staff who stood high on the list, and were expecting speed promotion and additional rank and emoluments, when Government was prevailed on to fill the higher offices of the Medical Bureau according to ability, and not, as before, according to seniority, (or, in other words, by selecting the best man instead of the oldest,) cannot be expected to admire the Sanitary Commission. Some of them think (very naturally) that it has "ruined the service," and are not disinclined to believe and to endorse any story that tells against it. Many of our most thoughtful and far-sighted people, misinformed as to its aim and policy, suppose it to seek merely the immediate relief of the sick or wounded soldier, at any cost to military self-reliance and discipline, and distrust it accordingly. Thousands of warm-hearted and energetic men and women, diligently laboring for portions of the army through State agencies and local societies, find the Sanitary Commission throwing cold water on their work, because it is not conformed to the system which the Commission holds to be the most economical, the most National, and altogether the best. They cannot help becoming more or less prejudiced against the Commission, which seems thus to discourage and discredit what they rightly feel to be the most unselfish and the most important work of their lives, and they are thus unconsciously predisposed to believe any thing they may hear against it.

MISUSE OF SANITARY STORES.

Many good people, and a still greater number of that class to whom censure and grumbling and the rumination of troubles are as the breath of life, have no little misgiving as to the final disposition made of the overflowing bounties distributed to the army through the medium of the Sanitary Commission. Do the ones for whom they are meant receive them? Do they get the larger part of them even? Or does the lion's share filter out in passing through the hands of various officials, between the donor and the sick soldier in hospital? We have labored, and still labor, and shall so continue to do, to give the public all the light we can, all we have and all we can obtain on the subject. None can feel more solicitous than we in regard to it. No insignificant part of the labors of our agents in the field, and of our own in the collection and publication of reports and statistical information, springs from this solicitude. We are a part of that public whom we address, and share, we trust, in the fullness of its anxiety respecting the welfare of our army and the triumph of our arms.

But aside from this, our official relations to the sanitary work naturally enough give an added and special intensity to the interest we hold in common with others.

Let us look the question then squarely in the face. Our means of knowledge respecting it are various, and not lacking in abundance. We have well-organized agencies, as everybody by this time is aware, in all parts of the grand army. These agencies are intrusted with a variety of duties. Prominent among these is *hospital visiting.* That is, an inspecting from day to day and time to time, of the personal condition of the patients—the food they eat, the clothing they wear, the general comforts with

which they are surrounded or which they lack. Inquiring as to the sanitary supplies on hand or in demand is included in this inspection. And to this the number of casual visitors—persons in search of sons, brothers, husbands, or persons voluntarily spending a brief period of observation and of benevolent labor in all the larger hospitals within and beyond army lines, and one can see that it would be not a little surprising if any flagrant, persistent, or very considerable purloining of sanitary stores could escape detection. We can give unqualified assurance to those who are unaffectedly anxious on this subject, that there is no difficulty in procuring due punishment and adequate prevention where detection does occur. Army orders in regard to this and all other kinds of plundering from hospital stores are stringent, and extremely plain and definite. No official would venture to neglect the execution of them on others, where occasion required it, not though he should chance to be secretly a culprit of the same sort himself. And again, it must not be overlooked that Government has a corps of Medical Inspectors—sixteen in number—distributed throughout the military districts of the country, a part of whose duties is to look into this very matter of the appropriation and consumption of hospital stores. In addition to this, nearly every army corps has one or more of its surgeons detailed to inspection duty, with functions every way similar to those of the regular inspectors. The reader will thus perceive that the means of detecting and correcting mal-practice of whatever kind on the part of hospital attendants are not wholly omitted, to say the least. And with the information furnished us from these several and important sources, we feel qualified to answer the question: "Is there any considerable or constant diversion of sanitary stores from their legitimate destination?" And we are glad to be able to answer, *There is not.* Instances of plundering do certainly occur from time to time, both in hospital and while the stores are *in transitu* between donor and patient. Instances of the former kind cannot be many times repeated without detection, whilst the amount of loss from plundering during transportation is, all things considered, surprisingly small. Where an abuse of the kind occurs in hospitals and is found out, the people at home are pretty sure to hear of it, whilst the *correction* of the abuse, however prompt it may have been, is not so likely to transpire. We have personally known instances of just this kind, where corrected abuses have been published—all but the correction. And can readily understand, therefore, how the gravity of such cases gets overrated, and how the cases themselves awaken unnecessary apprehension amongst the friends and contributors of the Commission, and furnish an unfortunate resource to captious and inborn fault-findings. The reader will see that the way of the transgressor is hard in this *stealing* (to put it in square honest Saxon) of sanitary stores. But there is unquestionably a small per centage of loss to be abstracted as a constant sum from the noble bounties of the Commission. Taking the whole army and the entire field of war into account at once, and an eye that could sweep the whole at a glance, would probably witness this most despicable species of theft somewhere within those wide limits as a constant fact. But whilst a constant fact to the witness, it would be a variable one with any given offender and in any given locality.

We have repeatedly had this experience—too often, in fact, to enable us to recall any signal examples—namely: We have asked some patient in a hospital if he ever received any thing from the Sanitary Commission, and received a prompt and emphatic "No" for an answer. Farther inquiry developes the fact that he has been for weeks the daily recipient of sanitary stores—both food and clothing. We have known persons of irreproachable integrity perpetrate just this absurdity, (for we cannot call it falsehood.) The patient, finding his own personal condition decidedly uncomfortable, and that he is only moderately well off for external comforts, not unnaturally concludes that he is indebted to Government for what little relief he does receive. He is not informed by nurse or surgeon where a given article administered to him may have come from. It is not practicable that he should be. Surgeons and nurses have enough to do with that omitted. And articles of diet are not likely to bear the Sanitary stamp, when cooked and ready for the palate. And if they did, many a patient, from lack of observing habits or from the gravity of his illness, would fail to see it. They frequently fail to see it on the very clothing that invests their persons. Many a rumor, painful and mischievous in its effects, has had just this kind of origin. We have never when in the field neglected to trace up all reports of the plundering of our stores, which gave the least promise of having a foundation, and we generally find them ending in some such smoke as this. And if otherwise, and an offense is eventually discovered, we have never encountered difficulty or delay in having the offender punished, and the way blocked to the repetition of the offense.

The actual percentage of loss to Sanitary stores in transit from donor to patient, "by flood and field," it is impossible to give with any considerable accuracy. But we feel justified in saying with absolute certainty that it is small; and whatever the amount is we should be spurred by it

rather than depressed. The means of prevention being as nearly complete and as extensively applied as the nature of the case will admit of, we must put down the losses that occur in spite of these means, as a part of the inevitable course of things, an item in the inexorable statistics of crime.—*Sanitary Reporter.*

THE CRIMEAN WAR—THE BRITISH ARMY AND MISS NIGHTINGALE. By Charles Shrimpton, M. D.

We regret that we have not space for a lengthened review of a pamphlet bearing the above title. The following quotations contain many principles and deductions applicable to our present national experience:

Doctor Shrimpton says: "It is one of the greatest characteristics of the present age, that the cause of humanity is become identified with the strength of armies. The history, then, of a war can no longer be confined to bare details of the plans of battles, and of the manœuvres of armies; we must refer to other elements, and principally to the *sanitary condition of troops, as the causes of our victories, or the reasons for our disasters.* The historian, in following soldiers in their campaigns, should note every thing that may be favorable or unfavorable to their sanitary condition; and, consequently, he should not neglect any opportunity of exposing every error that may be committed on this important point, from whatsoever source it may spring. There are particularly two important results to be obtained from this scrupulous care in compiling the history of a war. The first is, that of reducing to less than half the mortality of those brave soldiers who so generously shed their blood for their country; the second, merely a corollary of the first, that by reducing the mortality of soldiers the strength of armies will be proportionably increased, and thus very often the fortune of war decided."

Dr. Shrimpton then alludes to some of the more prominent causes of the fearful sickness and mortality among the British forces during the first twelve months subsequent to their reaching the Crimea. He says the British army was deficient in "Military Administration;" that is, in a method of co-ordinating the different branches of administration—such as victualling, clothing, forage, hospitals, campment, transport service, and corps of workmen.

"Even Malta, a British colony, was taken by surprise by the arrival of the British troops; and at Gallipoli the same neglect was repeated, the British Consul there was not informed that English troops were to arrive."

"When the British troops arrived at Gallipoli, they were three days in landing, and had neither mattresses nor blankets for the men, nor medicines nor shelter for the sick." The French did not suffer, because every thing had been provided for them by the centralizing power of the "Intendant-Général." While the French had plenty to eat, the wants of the English may be described by the condition of the men of the Ninety-third Regiment, "who were obliged to kill the oxen which had brought their baggage on the 'arabas' or rough carts of the country, and thus deprived themselves of their only means of transportation."

While our armies have not suffered as the English army did in the Crimea, we have had abundant reason to regret the want of some such co-ordinating functionary as the "Intendant-Général" of the French army, an officer only subordinate to the commanding officer, and charged with the duty of having food, shelter, medicines, clothing, and means of transportation at the right place at the right moment.

Dr. Shrimpton attributes the fearful mortality among the British troops to the great want of prevision in the matters alluded to above.

Dr. Shrimpton testifies as to the absolute necessity of having female nurses in the General Hospitals, "for," says he, quoting from Mr. Sidney Herbert, "hospital orderlies must be very rough hands."

DIMINUTION OF DRUNKENNESS IN THE BRITISH ARMY; ITS PROBABLE CAUSES.

[Extracted from London Lancet, Dec'r, 1863, p. 806.]

It is difficult from a mere "return" to arrive at any just conclusion as to the causes which have influenced the increase or decrease of intemperance in the several portions of the army located in different districts of the kingdom. Drunkenness is a vice dependent on such various causes apart from locality, that it would be satisfactory to have some further particulars on the subject. All causes which have a tendency to depress the mental or physical condition of the soldier, have more or less power over his habits with respect to drink.

We learn that the annual report on military prisons presents some curious statistics of the number of soldiers committed for being drunk. In the five years, 1848–'52, the annual commitments in England average seventy eight in ten thousand on the force stationed in England. In Scotland the average was one hundred and twenty-two in ten thousand in the force stationed there. In Ireland two hundred and one. In the next five years the average fell to seventy-three in England, sixty-four in Scotland, and one hundred and forty-four in Ireland. In the last five years it has been seventy-nine in England, only twenty-nine in Scotland, and but sixty-eight in Ireland.

It will be seen that the decline of the commitments is enormous, but still greater in Scotland. The returns are not according to nationality of the men, but locality of station.

Is not this gratifying result due to the improvement in the construction of soldiers' barracks, which has been brought about by the intelligent labors of the first Sanitary Commission appointed by the British Government? There is no measure more likely to lessen the vice of drunkenness amongst soldiers than providing them with comfortable quarters, reading-rooms, and innocent amusements for their leisure hours.

[Eds.]

THE NEGRO TROOPS.

The French Mexican expedition furnished an additional example of the freedom of the negro race from the diseases which, in hot climates, exert so devastating an effect upon whites. M. Reynaud, Inspector-General of the Marine force in Mexico, addresses a letter to the Academy of Medicine, in which he states that the last epidemic of yellow fever exemplifies the above fact, just as did that of 1862; while the yellow fever produced great numbers of victims amongst the Europeans employed at Vera Cruz and the fort St. Jean d'Ulloa, not a single death from this cause occurred among more than 600 soldiers and sailors from the West Indies, almost all of them yet undergoing the most trying labor.—*American Medical Times.*

A DINNER IN CAMP.

Wagons accompanied by strong guards have been sent out, in the direction of saw-mills and houses, for boards and bricks. Many have returned laden with these rich and valued spoils. Nothing is more sought after, better appreciated, or more ingeniously used in this army, than boards. With a few of these for his bed, table, chair, &c., and a few bricks for his chimney, your soldier with his shelter-tent builds him a comfortable domicile, and lives well.

When in a permanent camp, where supplies are readily sent to the army, the soldier gets his full rations and is satisfied with them. Within the last few days he has been drawing in the way of vegetables, potatoes, onions, and turnips.

The other day I received a pressing invitation to dine with some of the men. "They were nicely fixed, and wanted me to see how they lived." Some dozen or fifteen of them had obtained permission to occupy a kind of barn, formerly used as a corn-house. It was divided into three apartments; the men divided into three messes. With one of these I dined. There were two other guests, and the preparations were extensive. Early in the morning they began to clear up, &c. When I arrived all hands were busy; one cooking this and another fixing that, and so on. The most noticeable thing was the cook-stove; which, one of their number, remembering sufficient of the craft he used to practice when a civilian, extemporized out of old camp-kettles, spades, and a part of a mowing machine, and an excellent thing it was both for warmth and utility.

Our dinner was well-cooked, and in abundance. Bill of fare consisted of soup, beefsteak, fresh bread and butter, coffee, mashed potatoes, roasted ditto, fried onions, turnips, &c., and peaches and milk. The latter luxury was obtained in this way: Mine host, the sergeant —formerly a squire—a man of good education and culture, the ruler in the company, the oracle, consulted on all affairs of general interest, very popular, a pleasant talker. The men laugh at his sayings, quote them, and love him. He is very generous and open-hearted. One of the men being sick, the squire purchased some peaches for him, at enormous prices, from the fleecers of the army, (the sutlers.) The friend recovered, and the peaches were forgotten until to-day. After dinner we had music—the banjo—the favorite instrument in the army—singing and dancing. They told me that they managed to live in camp right along in this way. None of them liked the life of a soldier, might perhaps re-enlist, would make the best of events that turn up, were sort of contented, and would live as jolly as they could. This mess represents a fair average of what might be found throughout the corps.—*Extract from Report of Relief Agent, Sixth Corps, Army of Potomac.*

AN OFFICER ON THE COMMISSION.

I have referred to the Sanitary Commission; and no one could visit these hospitals without becoming a firm believer in the importance and value of this institution as supplementary to the regular surgical department.

So extensive are the ramifications of this Commission, and so thoroughly have its agents been drilled in the good work, and so completely has it the confidence and aid of the Government officials, that one dollar expended through its channels is equal to three expended by private benevolence or State societies. It is natural that our kind-hearted women should desire that their offerings should go to their special friends, though if they reflect, they could hardly wish that one man should enjoy these delicacies, while his brothers in patriotic devotion, the men who stood shoulder to shoulder with him in the hour of trial, are left without them. Surely, if there be a place in the world for impartiality in the distribution of articles of comfort and solace, it is the hospital of those who have been wounded in a common cause; besides, this private bounty is simply impossible. What we need is, to have these supplies ready at once, even before the battle is over, and this is the well-performed office of the Sanitary Commission.

I believe that this Commission is one of the first fruits of our most advanced Christian civilization, the first inroad into the domain of war of a practical Christianity which shall yet throttle and destroy this demon forever. When I seek to estimate its value and significance in its various supervisory, reformatory, and scientific, as well as benevolent operations, to say nothing of those exceedingly valuable statistical collections which are to be the corner-stones of future history, I confess I know of no calculus

by which correctly to compute them. Could the tens of thousands of the blue uniformed sufferers it has relieved utter their testimony, we might reach some adequate expression.—*Captain Noyes in the "Bivouac and the Battle-field."*

QUININE AS A PREVENTIVE OF MALARIAL DISEASE.

Dr. J. W. Page, Inspector for United States Sanitary Commission in Department of North Carolina and Virginia, reports that the greatest benefit to the health of the forces stationed in the malarial regions about Newbern, has resulted from the regular administration of a quinine ration to the men. It is gratifying to hear this statement from Dr. Page, whose long residence in the malarial regions of North Carolina makes him a critical observer. One of the earliest efforts of the Commission, in the direction of the prevention of disease in the army, was to impress upon commanding officers and the Government the prophylactic or preventive powers of quinine. All who are familiar with the Medical Documents of the Commission, will remember the able and exhaustive Monograph by Dr. Wm. H. Van Buren on this subject. From all the columns operating in malarial regions, we have heard nothing to impair our belief in the value of quinine as a preventive of malarial disease. It should be taken in doses of three grains at bed-time, and two or three in the morning, continuously, through the malarial season. Its value is enhanced when given in connection with coffee. It is scarcely necessary to state that the curative power of quinine is greatly lessened in the case of those who have become saturated with fever and ague poison, by long residence in malarial regions; of course, the experience of such persons cannot be taken as impairing one's belief in the preventive power of the agent.

THE VENTILATION OF THE IRON-CLADS.

The good fortune of meeting with intelligent medical officers of the Navy has enabled the writer to compare notes upon important questions, that relate alike to military and to naval hygiene, and to the relative status of medical officers in these two branches of national service. In this letter I will refer only to one or two of the hygienic questions. In a number of the MEDICAL TIMES some time ago, you rather sharply called attention to the sanitary condition of the *Monitors* and iron-clad gunboats. The questions to which you then solicited official attention were at that time receiving the earnest and intelligent consideration of the best men in the medical service of the navy. We hazard nothing in asserting that the *savant* or the mechanical engineer who will devise and put into successful operation a system of ventilation that will supply fresh air to the cabins, quarters, and berth-decks of the *Monitors*, at the rate of from five hundred to one thousand cubic feet per hour, to each man of the ship's company, will confer a priceless boon upon the crews and officers of those new war-vessels, and at the same time will do his country a patriotic service scarcely inferior to that rendered by the renowned ERICSSON himself.

Only think of the sanitary prospects of eighty or a hundred men shut up in a submerged iron encasement, with only about sixty-five cubic feet of air-space to each person, and that sepulchral atmosphere unchanged, except by the very imperfect process of "blowing" a feeble current from the "turret." According to our own rough estimate, each man during battle, or in a sea at all rough, when scuttles and hatches must be closed, would receive *less than two cubic feet per minute* of fresh air for respiration. Add to this the inevitable humidity and the excessive heat and darkness of the *Monitors*, and you have the elemental and *inevitable* causes of a fearfully high invalid-rate.

Is there no *intro-mechanist* who will immediately devise the means for remedying this evil? We venture to offer the clue to the desired invention by saying that the ventilation must be secured upon the *vacuum* principle, or by suction of the foul air, and not by the present inoperative *plenum* or blowing method. Even for the ventilation of ordinary transport ships, the problem of effective ventilation depends mainly upon the means and certainty of *egress of foul air*. No plenum blowing in a *Monitor* will ever accomplish the desired result, except at the expense of the invulnerability of the war ship itself. Mr. ERICSSON has provided fans *in the turrets*, but it is not pure fresh air they blow; and even the broken current of the impure air they do control, is sent first down to the hold, then, after feeding the furnace fires, it slowly mixes with the yet impure air of the berth-deck and officers' quarters.

Nothing is plainer than that there must be a specific method and power of *egress* for the foul air, and this fact is so well stated in a brochure just placed in our hands by the Sanitary Commission [*Medical Document* S. *Hints for the Control of Infectious Diseases in Camps, Transports, and Hospitals*], that we beg leave to quote a paragraph relating to this point:

"The special improvements or works for ventilation in ordinary transports, consist mainly in greatly increasing the area and the places of *egress for foul air*. This is best effected, temporarily, by increasing the area of the windows and air-shafts at the stern, and, if admissible, elsewhere. The *ingress of fresh air* is easily provided for, after establishing the channels and amount of outlet."

After showing how egress may be given to the foul air of a ship's decks, the author says that the methods he advises for employment in crowded transports, "will provide 1,000 cubic feet of fresh air per hour to each man, in a vessel sailing five knots an hour; but, *if no special outlets are provided, even twice the number of wind-sails, all injecting, would fail even to supply at the rate of* 100 *cubic feet per hour.*" But the inventor of the *Monitors* has attempted to ventilate those remarkable gunboats by the hopeless plan of *blowing* down through the turret, which is like blowing into a bottle through its neck.

In a future communication your readers shall have the results of some observations upon the ventilation of tents and barracks.

—*Medical Times.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

PETTY MANAGEMENT.

All the results of good nursing, as detailed in these notes, may be spoiled or utterly negatived by one defect, viz.: in petty management, or in other words, by not knowing how to manage that what you do when you are there, shall be done when you are not there. The most devoted friend or nurse cannot be always *there*. Nor is it desirable that she should. And she may give up her health, all her other duties, and yet, for want of a little management, be not one-half so efficient as another who is not one-half so devoted, but who has this art of multiplying herself—that is to say, the patient of the first will not really be so well cared for as the patient of the second.

It is as impossible in a book to teach a person in charge of sick how to *manage*, as it is to teach her how to nurse. Circumstances must vary with each different case. But it *is* possible to press upon her to think for herself: Now what does happen during my absence? I am obliged to be away on Tuesday. But fresh air, or punctuality, is not less important to my patient on Tuesday than it was on Monday. Or: At 10 P. M. I am never with my patient; but quiet is of no less consequence to him at 10 than it was at 5 minutes to 10.

Curious as it may seem, this very obvious consideration occurs comparatively to few, or, if it does occur, it is only to cause the devoted friend or nurse to be absent fewer hours or fewer minutes from her patient—not to arrange so as that no minute and no hour shall be for her patient without the essentials of her nursing.

A very few instances will be sufficient, not as precepts, but as illustrations.

A strange washerwoman, coming late at night for the "things," will burst in by mistake to the patient's sick-room, after he has fallen into his first doze, giving him a shock, the effects of which are irremediable, though he himself laughs at the cause, and probably never even mentions it. The nurse who is, and is quite right to be, at her supper, has not provided that the washerwoman shall not lose her way and go into the wrong room.

The patient's room may always have the window open. But the passage outside the patient's room, though provided with several large windows, may never have one open; because it is not understood that the charge of the sick-room extends to the charge of the passage. And thus, as often happens, the nurse makes it her business to turn the patient's room into a ventilating shaft for the foul air of the whole house.

An uninhabited room, a newly-painted room, an uncleaned closet or cupboard, may often become the reservoir of foul air for the whole house, because the person in charge never thinks of arranging that these places shall be always aired, always cleaned; she merely opens the window herself "when she goes in."

An agitating letter or message may be delivered, or an important letter or message *not* delivered; a visitor whom it was of consequence to see, may be refused, or one whom it was of still more consequence to *not* see may be admitted—because the person in charge has never asked herself this question, What is done when I am not there?

At all events, one may safely say, a nurse cannot be with the patient, open the door, eat her meals, take a message, all at one and the same time. Nevertheless the person in charge never seems to look the impossibility in the face.

Add to this that the *attempting* this impossibility does more to increase the poor patient's hurry and nervousness than any thing else.

It is never thought that the patient remembers these things if you do not. He has not only to think whether the visit or letter may arrive, but whether you will be in the way at the particular day and hour when it may arrive. So that your *partial* measures for "being in the way" yourself, only increase the necessity for his thought. Whereas, if you could but arrange that the thing should always be done whether you are there or not, he need never think at all about it.

For the above reasons, whatever a patient *can* do for himself, it is better, *i. e.* less anxiety, for him to do for himself, unless the person in charge has the spirit of management.

It is evidently much less exertion for a patient to answer a letter for himself by return of post, than to have four conversations, wait five days, have six anxieties before it is off his mind, before the personwho has to answer it has done so.

Apprehension, uncertainty, waiting, expectation, fear of surprise, do a patient more harm than any exertion. Remember, he is face to face with his enemy all the time, internally wrestling with him, having long imaginary conversations with him. You are thinking of something else. "Rid him of his adversary quickly," is a first rule with the sick.

For the same reasons, always tell a patient and tell him beforehand when you are going out and when you will be back, whether it is for a day, an hour, or ten minutes. You fancy perhaps that it is better for him if he does not find out your going at all, better for him if you do not make yourself "of too much importance" to him; or else you cannot bear to give him the pain or the anxiety of the temporary separation.

No such thing. You *ought* to go, we will suppose. Health or duty requires it. Then say so to the patient openly. If you go without his knowing it, and he finds it out, he never will feel secure again that the things which depend upon you will be done when you are away, and in nine cases out of ten he will be right. If you go out without telling him when you will be back, he can take no measures nor precautions as to the things which concern you both, or which you do for him.

In institutions where many lives would be lost, and the effect of such a want of management would be terrible and patent, there is less of it than in the private house.

But in both, let whoever is in charge keep this simple question in her head (*not*, how can I always do this right thing myself, but) how can I provide for this right thing to be always done?

Then, when any thing wrong has actually happened in consequence of her absence, which absence we will suppose to have been quite right, let her question still be (*not*, how can I provide against any more of such absences? which is neither possible nor desirable, but) how can I provide against any thing wrong arising out of my absence?

NOISE.

Unnecessary noise, or noise that creates an expectation in the mind, is that which hurts a patient. It is rarely the loudness of the noise, the effect upon the organ of the ear itself, which appears to affect the sick. How well a patient will generally bear, *e. g.*, the putting up of a scaffolding close to the house, when he cannot bear the talking, still less the whispering, especially if it be of a familar voice, outside his door.

Never to allow a patient to be waked, intentionally or accidentally, is a *sine qua non* of all good nursing. If he is roused out of his first sleep, he is almost certain to have no more sleep. It is a curious but quite intelligible fact that, if a patient is waked after a few hours' instead of a few minutes' sleep, he is much more likely to sleep again. Because pain, like irritability of brain, perpetuates and intensifies itself. If you have gained a respite of either in sleep, you have gained more than the mere respite. Both the probability of recurrence and of the same intensity will be diminished; whereas both will be terribly increased by want of sleep. This is the reason why sleep is so all-important. This is the reason why a patient waked in the early part of his sleep loses not only his sleep, but his power to sleep. A healthy person who allows himself to sleep during the day will lose his sleep at night. But it is exactly the reverse with the sick generally; the more they sleep, the better will they be able to sleep.

I have often been surprised at the thoughtlessness (resulting in cruelty, quite unintentionally) of friends or of doctors who will hold a long conversation just in the room or passage adjoining to the room of the patient, who is either every moment expecting them to come in, or who has just seen them, and knows they are talking about him. If it is a whispered conversation in the same room, then it is absolutely cruel; for it is impossible that the patient's attention should not be involuntarily strained to hear. Walking on tip-toe, doing any thing in the room very slowly, are injurious, for exactly the same reasons. A firm, light, quick step, a steady, quick hand, are the desiderata; not the slow, lingering, shuffling foot, the timid, uncertain touch. Slowness is not gentleness, though it is often mistaken for such: quickness, lightness, and gentleness are quite compatible. Again, if friends and doctors did but watch, as nurses can and should watch, the features sharpening, the eyes growing almost wild, of fever patients who are listening for the entrance from the corridor of the persons whose voices they are hearing there, these would never run the risk again of creating such expectation, or irritation of mind. Such unnecessary noise has undoubtedly induced or aggravated delirium in many cases.

I need hardly say that the other common cause, namely, for a doctor or friend to leave the patient and communicate his opinion on the result of his visit to the friends just outside the patient's door, or in the adjoining room, after the visit, but within hearing or knowledge of the patient, is, if possible, worst of all.

It is, I think, alarming, peculiarly at this time, when the female ink-bottles are perpetually impressing upon us "woman's" "particular worth and general missionariness," to see that the dress of woman is daily more and more unfitting them for any "mission," or usefulness at all. It is equally unfitted for all poetic and all domestic purposes. A man is now a more handy and far less objectionable being in a sick room than a woman. Compelled by her dress, every woman now either shuffles or waddles—only a man can cross the floor of a sick-room without shaking it! What is become of woman's light step?—the firm, light, quick step we have been asked for?

The noiseless step of woman, the noiseless drapery of woman, are mere figures of speech in this day. Her skirts (and well if they do not throw down some piece of furniture) will at least brush against every article in the room as she moves.

Again, one nurse cannot open the door without making every thing rattle. Or she opens the door unnecessarily often, for want of remembering all the articles that might be brought in at once.

A good nurse will always make sure that no door or window in her patient's room shall rattle or creak; that no blind or curtain shall, by any change of wind through the open window, be made to flap—especially will she be careful of all this before she leaves her patients for the night. If you wait till your patients tell you, or remind you of these things, where is the use of their having a nurse? There are more shy than exacting patients, in all classes; and many a patient passes a bad night, time after time, rather than remind his nurse every night of all the things she has forgotten.

If there are blinds to your windows, always take care to have them well up, when they are not being used. A little piece slipping down, and flapping with every draught, will distract a patient.

All hurry or bustle is peculiarly painful to the sick. And when a patient has compulsory occupations to engage him, instead of having simply to amuse himself, it becomes doubly injurious. The friend who remains standing and fidgeting about while a patient is talking business to him, or the friend who sits and proses, the one from an idea of not letting the patient talk, the other from an idea of amusing him—each is equally inconsiderate. Always sit down when a sick person is talking business to you, show no signs of hurry, give complete attention and full consideration if your advice is wanted, and go away the moment the subject is ended.

Always sit within the patient's view, so that when you speak to him he has not painfully to turn his head round in order to look at you. Everybody involuntarily looks at the person speaking. If you make this act a wearisome one on the part of the patient, you are doing him harm. So also if by continuing to stand you make him continuously raise his eyes to see you. Be as motionless as possible, and never gesticulate in speaking to the sick.

Never make a patient repeat a message or request, especially if it be some time after. Occupied patients are often accused of doing too much of their own business. They are instinctively right. How often you hear the person, charged with the request of giving the message or writing the letter, say half an hour afterwards to the patient, "Did you appoint 12 o'clock?" or, "What did you say was the address?" or ask perhaps some much more agitating question—thus causing the patient the effort of memory, or worse still, of decision, all over again. It is

really less exertion to him to write his letters himself. This is the almost universal experience of occupied invalids.

This brings us to another caution. Never speak to an invalid from behind, nor from the door, nor from any distance from him, nor when he is doing any thing.

The official politeness of servants in these things is so grateful to invalids, that many prefer, without knowing why, having none but servants about them.

These things are not fancy. If we consider that, with sick as with well, every thought decomposes some nervous matter—that decomposition as well as re-composition of nervous matter is always going on, and more quickly with the sick than with the well—that, to obtrude abruptly another thought upon the brain while it is in the act of destroying nervous matter by thinking, is calling upon it to make a new exertion—if we consider these things, which are facts, not fancies, we shall remember that we are doing positive injury by interrupting, by "startling a fanciful" person, as it is called. Alas! it is no fancy.

If the invalid is forced, by his avocations, to continue occupations requiring much thinking, the injury is doubly great. In feeding a patient suffering under delirium or stupor you may suffocate him, by giving him his food suddenly, but if you rub his lips gently with a spoon and thus attract his attention, he will swallow the food unconsciously, but with perfect safety. Thus it is with the brain. If you offer it a thought, especially one requiring a decision, abruptly, you do it a real not fanciful injury. Never speak to a sick person suddenly; but, at the same time, do not keep his expectation on the tip-toe.

This rule, indeed, applies to the well quite as much as to the sick. I have never known persons who exposed themselves for years to constant interruption who did not muddle away their intellects by it at last. The process with them may be accomplished without pain. With the sick, pain gives warning of the injury.

Do not meet or overtake a patient who is moving about in order to speak to him, or to give him any message or letter. You might just as well give him a box on the ear. I have seen a patient fall flat on the ground who was standing when his nurse came into the room. This was an accident which might have happened to the most careful nurse. But the other is done with intention. A patient in such a state is not going to the East Indies. If you would wait ten seconds, or walk ten yards further, any promenade he could make would be over. You do not know the effort it is to a patient to remain standing for even a quarter of a minute to listen to you. If I had not seen the thing done by the kindest nurses and friends, I should have thought this caution quite superfluous.

It is absolutely essential that a nurse should lay this down as a positive rule to herself, never to speak to any patient who is standing or moving, as long as she exercises so little observation as not to know when a patient cannot bear it. I am satisfied that many of the accidents which happen from feeble patients tumbling down stairs, fainting after getting up, &c., happen solely from the nurse popping out of a door to speak to the patient just at that moment; or from his fearing that she will do so. And that if the patient were even left to himself, till he can sit down, such accidents would much seldomer occur. If the nurse accompanies the patient, let her not call upon him to speak. It is incredible that nurses cannot picture to themselves the strain upon the heart, the lungs, and the brain, which the act of moving is to any feeble patient.

Patients are often accused of being able to "do much more when nobody is by." It is quite true that they can. Unless nurses can be brought to attend to considerations of the kind of which we have given here but a few specimens, a very weak patient finds it really much less exertion to do things for himself than to ask for them. And he will, in order to do them, (very innocently and from instinct,) calculate the time his nurse is likely to be absent, from a fear of her "coming in upon" him or speaking to him, just at the moment when he finds it quite as much as he can do to crawl from his bed to his chair, or from one room to another, or down stairs, or out of doors for a few minutes.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

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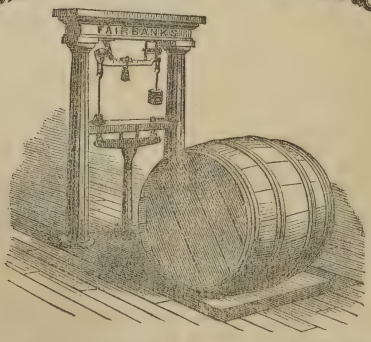
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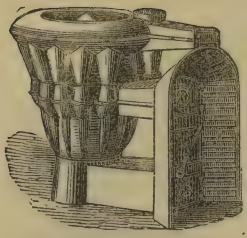
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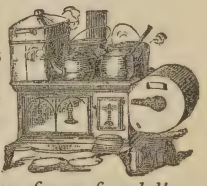


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ABSTRACT OF THE

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SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE COMPANY ON THE

FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 1864.

ASSETS.

Cash, Balance in Bank,	$875,680 45
Bonds and Mortgages, being first lien on Real Estate	831,672 50
Loans on Stocks, payable on demand	376,012 50
United States Stocks (market value)	673,588 52
State and Municipal Stocks and Bonds, (market value)	190,159 00
Bank Stocks, (market value)	111,800 00
Real Estate	65,000 00
Interest due on 1st January, 1864	17,896 21
Balance in hands of Agents, and in course of transmission from Agents, on 1st January, 1864	72,348 96
Bills Receivable, (for premiums on Inland Risks)	24,773 90
Government Stamps on hand	96 62
Other Property, Miscellaneous Items	44,117 87
Premiums due and uncollected on Policies issued at Office	3,123 80
Total	$3,286,270 33

LIABILITIES.

Claims for Losses Outstanding on 1st January, 1864	$74,953 32
Due Stockholders on account 18th and 19th dividends	850 00

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NEW YORK, *January 18th*, 1864.

THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 15, 1864. No. 8.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

A FEW WORDS MORE ABOUT THE MONEY.

BROOKLYN, *February* 3, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. BELLOWS: I think great good would be done by a brief statement of the mode of using money by the Sanitary Commission.

There is great ignorance of its scope, details, and need of vast funds; and where there is ignorance, there will be more or less fear and doubt whether such volumes of money as, in the imagination of the people, are rolling into its treasury from these national fairs, can be needed or well spent. Can you give a brief view of the *per cent.* of *expenses* to your *receipts;* a synopsis of the things embraced in your several departments; some facts as to amounts required for particularized articles, such as clothes department, vegetables, &c., &c.? I want what can be read by a mechanic or laborer in two minutes, to give him an idea of the breadth not only of your sphere, but of the complexity of *things* required; and how much it requires, for instance, to care for a thousand wounded or sick men, and what number of thousands have been aided, and what proportion you have borne. Can you help me?

Yours, truly,

H. W. BEECHER.

NEW YORK, *February* 8, 1864.

REV. H. W. BEECHER:

DEAR SIR: At my first leisure I proceed to reply in full to your note, to which you have already received a condensed reply, such as a working man might read in two minutes. It is important that the public should understand the magnitude and extent of the sickness against which the Government is compelled to provide, in order to understand why so much, such constant, and such costly supplementary assistance is required from the Sanitary Commission.

Our hospital record shows that 500,000 men passed through the general hospitals this last year! We have no record of the previous year, but have reason to think from the less veteran character of the troops, that the number could not have been less, but rather more. The first year fewer troops were in the field, and perhaps there were not more than half as many ill in general hospital. But already you have a million and a quarter. Now recall the fact that only those too ill to be taken care of in the regimental hospitals go to the general hospitals, and you will realize that probably as many more have been in the regimental as in the general hospitals. Here, then, at a rough calculation, pretending to no precision, but near enough and undeniable enough to be a basis of practical judgment, you have two millions and a half of men sick at one time or another since the war began. I suppose it to be literally true, that as many men have been in the hospital as there have been in the field. Some have not been sick at all; others have been sick twice, thrice, a half dozen times. I do not believe it would be a misleading

reckoning to say that the actual count of our armies each year in the field, is the tally of the hospital. This is not strange, for is not that man fortunate who stays at home, who is not sick once in the twelvemonth ? What, then, must the exposures of the military service add to this risk ? Almost every man in our army has had to go through acclimation, as well as through the hardening process of an untried and exposed life. Recollect now that this sickness is not scattered among a sparse population, but thrown upon masses of condensed humanity ; that the sick men are not members of families, with wives and mothers to take care of them ; that their care is an encumbrance to military movements, weakens military strength, as much by the care-takers it detaches from ordinary duty, as by the absence of the sick themselves ; that medical stores *follow* commissary and ammunition stores ; that the medical department has no independent transportation, and cannot have ; that there are only a surgeon and assistant surgeon in charge of a regiment, and you can judge of the vastness of the work and the difficulty of the circumstances under which the Government labors in its care of our sick.

There is no pretence that all these men are very sick, although those who go into general hospital usually are so ; nor that their sicknesses are very long. They vary from three days to three weeks, to three months. What the average number of sick at all times is, (allowing for variation of seasons,) it is not perhaps, for military reasons, expedient to say just now. But it might be justly said, that not half the force on the rolls is ever in actual fighting condition ; and that the population of the general and the regimental hospitals, with the sick in quarters, presents at all times an appalling amount of suffering and debility, of peril to life and of appeal to humanity.

No government on earth ever did or ever can take satisfactory care of such numbers of sick men. An epidemic (cholera or yellow fever) in a great city presents an analogous case. Suppose all the care of the sick was thrown at such time on the doctors and professional nurses ! Everybody has to turn doctor and nurse at such crises, and everybody has to become everybody's else—brother or father, or sister or mother.

The amount of sickness in an army that has to be scattered over so many degrees of longitude and latitude as ours, where the men are always acclimating, must be great, and cannot be calculated. Nor can any human wisdom tell where a great battle may come off or when, or what its result will be, or how many wounded men may result from it, nor which side will have the care of the wounded—their own and their enemy's it may be.

Under these circumstances the U. S. Sanitary Commission says that if only ten per cent. of what ordinary humanity requires to be done for 500,000 cases of sickness in the year, are by the most rigid construction thrown upon *its* care, there are 50,000 cases of sickness to be considered and provided against. Now, if anybody will think what amount of agency, transportation, clothing, medicines, stimulants, delicate food, 50,000 sick men (supposing each case to need only a month's care) must require, they may see how two millions and a half a year may be expended on them. What is fifty dollars on each case ! A sick man, sick for a month, is clothed, nursed, fed, saved, for fifty dollars. The country has been paying out of its local beneficence three and four hundred dollars *bounty*, to send a man to the war. Is it economical or not to pay fifty dollars, to save his life after he enters the service ?

Now, because there are no given 50,000 cases, which we have under our entire charge, it does not change the case. All the 2,500,000 sick cases of this war in General or Regimental Hospitals (not to speak of sick in quarters) have come, to the extent, I don't doubt, of 20 per cent. ; but let us for moderation say only 10 per cent. of their hospital wants, upon our care, and this care has been expended upon the whole army for three years, at a cost actually to the country through our treasury of $3.20 per case, (not per man.) Such is the *immense addition*, held so extravagant and so uncalled for by some, which the Sanitary Commission has made to the regular succor offered by the Government itself, through the Medical Department.

The business of the U. S. Sanitary Commission lies—

I. In collecting supplies. This is done through its Branches. During the first two years the homes of the country sent of their superfluity immense quantities of sheets, pillow-cases, comforters, blankets, shirts, drawers, socks, &c. This superfluity is long ago exhausted, while the want continues. Of course now they must buy the raw material, and make up newly what they originally could take out of their closets and trunks. Hence the necessity of the great fairs to raise the money to purchase the clothing and other supplies which they obtained formerly in another way. All the money raised by the fairs will (with small exceptions) be spent at home in creating supplies. It takes about fifteen-sixteenths of all the cost of the U. S. Sanitary Commission to furnish its supplies and transportation. The other one-sixteenth goes into the support of its homes, its lodges, its machinery of distribution, its hospital directory, and hospital and camp inspection. The *cash* which actually reaches the Central treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, has in three years amounted to about *one million of dollars, of which the Pacific Coast has given nearly three-quarters!* It would be well for those who on the Atlantic coast sometimes question our economy, to consider this fact.

Of this money, more than half has been spent in the purchase of such supplies as the homes of the land do not and cannot furnish, and in the transportation of them. Such as

Condensed milk by the ton.
Beef-stock " "
Wines and spirits by the barrel.
Crackers and farinaceous food by the ton.
Tea, coffee and sugar, by the chest and hogshead.
Crutches, bed-rests, mattresses and bedsteads, by the 100.

Cargoes of ice, potatoes, onions, and curried cabbage, lemons, oranges, and antiscorbutics, and tonics. At times we have supplied not only the sick, but a whole army threatened with scurvy, with the means of averting it; and we have averted it at Vicksburg, at Murfreesboro', before Charleston. Thousands of barrels of onions, thousands of barrels of potatoes, hundreds of barrels of curried cabbage, have been forwarded to various corps, even as far as Texas, to appease the demon of scurvy, and save our troops.

The other half-million has been used in supporting two hundred experts, medical inspectors, relief agents, clerks, wagoners, and accompanying agents, in the field, or in our offices and depots, through whom our work is done. These two hundred men receive, on an average, $2.00 per day for labor, which is, say half of it, highly skilled, sometimes of professional eminence, and worth from five to ten times that amount. Few of these men could be had for the money, but they work for love and patriotism, and are content with a bare support. This costs $12,000 a month. The Board, (all included, twenty-one in number)—president, vice-president, treasurer, medical committee, standing committee—*give* their services and their time gratuitously. *They receive nothing. Their traveling expenses alone are partly refunded them, and these are trifling, excepting the case of one or two who go frequently on tours of observation.**

II. The next large expense is the support of twenty-five soldiers' homes, or lodges, scattered over the whole field of war, from New Orleans to Washington, including Vicksburg, Memphis, Cairo, Chattanooga, Nashville, Louisville, Washington, &c., &c. In these homes and lodges *twenty-three hundred* soldiers (different ones) *daily* receive shelter, food, medical aid, protection, and care. These soldiers are such as are crowded by the rigidity of the military system out of the regular channels; soldiers left behind, astray, who have lost their military status, convalescents, discharged men, not able to get their pay. Of these, the average length of time they are on our hands is about three days. The priceless value of this supplementary system no tongue can tell. The abandonment of it would create an amount of suffering which a multiplication of 2300 by 365 days in the year, will but serve to hint at.

* Up to the first of January, 1864, the amount drawn by individual members of the Board for traveling expenses, did not exceed one hundred dollars a year per member, (say $100,) and did not cover over one-half the actual expenditure made by each.

In connection with these homes, at the great military centres, New Orleans, Louisville, Washington, are bureaus in aid of the discharged soldier's great necessities, growing out of his loss of papers in battle, or during the bewilderment of sickness, or through the ignorance of his superiors, or his own:

1. A Claim Agency, to secure his bounty.
2. A Pension Agency.
3. A Back-pay Agency.

The mercy of these ministries, by which soldiers and their families, helpless without this aid—the prey of sharpers, runners, and grog-shops—are put in speedy possession of their rights, is inexpressible. We have often $20,000 a day of back pay in our office at Washington alone, which might have been lost forever, or delayed until it was no longer needed by the soldier's own family, without this system.

Sometimes a dozen letters must pass back and forth with various officials, to verify a single claim. By these agencies, wronged men, stricken in disgrace from the army rolls, are restored; and in several cases men condemned to be shot as deserters, have been saved from an undeserved death.

To these are to be added—

1. A special provision for wives, mothers, and sisters, who have expended all the little means of home in getting to Washington or Louisville, to see and protect their sick relatives.

2. A home for faithful nurses broken down in the service.

3. Arrangements for sending very sick soldiers home under escort.

III. A hospital directory, by which the whereabouts of all sick men is determined. There are 600,000 names in its books. It is corrected daily. It saves endless confusion, suspense, and misery; prevents needless journeys; answers the most urgent questions; relieves the Homes of the feeling that their boys are lost in the crowded hospitals; blesses and keeps heart-whole hundreds of wives, mothers, and sisters, every day. It costs $20,000 a year to maintain it, and it is worth a million, if human anxiety can be estimated in money.

IV. Hospital Inspection. Sixty of the most skillful surgeons and physicians in the nation were—eight or ten at a time—six months engaged, under the direction of the Commission, in a systematic and scientific survey of *all* the general hospitals. They inspected 70,000 beds; saw 200,000 patients, and reported in 4,000 written pages the critical results of these inquiries. Can any body estimate the scientific and humane value of such a survey, brought home to the surgeon, the medical authorities, and the Government? Can our hospital system dispense with such a review on the part of the homes, and by the civil medical profession?

This work we shall resume after a proper interval. Dr. Newberry reports that the *best* hospital he has seen was at Bridgeport, near Chattanooga—a field hospital! What a pride and satisfaction to know that science and humanity are in the very front of our armies!

V. The transportation of the sick, carried on by us for the Government in vessels from the Peninsula—from which we brought 8,000 men in a comfort wholly unattainable by Government transportation, aided by our generous medical students and our heroic, though delicate, women—we have since largely carried on in our patent hospital cars, in which the sick, without jar, can be conveyed hundreds of miles with little suffering or injury. We have these cars on the main lines, east and west, along which sick soldiers are carried.

VI. We supply the barren market of Washington with daily car-loads of fresh hospital supplies from Philadelphia. All the beef, mutton, poultry, butter, eggs, vegetables, used in *all* the hospitals at Washington, are selected, forwarded, distributed by the Sanitary Commission—the Medical Department refunding our outlay at the end of each month, saving the profit made by ordinary dealers, and securing wholesome food to the sick.

VII. The battle-field service of the Commission is perhaps too well known to require any elucidation. But let us take the case of Gettysburg. We had accumulated stores, and placed agents at Harrisburg, Pa., Frederick, Md., and Chambersburg, and at Baltimore, to watch the probable necessities of Meade's army. We had inspectors and wagon-trains marching with

it; one with each column. The dreadful battle came off. The best calculations of the Government had anticipated the wants of 10,000 wounded men. The result of that glorious, yet horrible contest, left about 25,000 wounded men (our own and the enemy's) on an area of four miles square. Every church, private house, barn, shed, was crammed with wounded men—additional to field hospitals (in tents) whitening the hill sides, and drenching the soil in the blood of amputated limbs. The railroads clogged with trains forwarding troops to re-enforce Meade in his pursuit of Lee; the bridges burnt by the enemy; neither cars nor locomotives enough to do half the required business; the surgeons and stewards compelled largely to accompany the troops, who expected another battle within a week—what would have become of those noble sufferers, if the *half*-preparation (*not* half) which the providence of the Government had made, had not been supplemented for the first week or two, *full one-half* by the Sanitary Commission, aided by the Christian Commission and other Relief Agencies? Look at the list of things* (appended) furnished them alone, and remember that this was one single battle-field, and cost the Sanitary Commission in stores, clothing, food, and transportation, $75,000. Was there one dollar more spent than was called for? Was one dollar misspent? Was not the moral and material economy in the saving of life, (I believe thousands of lives were literally saved by our succor on that occasion alone,) and in the saving of pain and needless misery, such as every benefactor of the Commission must forever rejoice in?

Let me only add, that one dollar in hand before a battle, and spent in providing against its wants, by posting agents, creating depots, and arranging for the relief of the expected sufferers, is worth five dollars thrown in after the battle, to meet its dreadful necessities. For economy's sake we need a full treasury.

It is this sort of Providence which the Commission is always practicing. Its whole machinery is adapted to prevent disease and sickness, by a department which I have not yet mentioned—that by which it circulates through the army by means of its Sanitary Inspectors, constant warnings, by an elaborate system of verbal counsel and

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*Supplies Distributed during and immediately after the Battles at Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1863.

Of Articles of Clothing, etc., viz.:

Of Drawers, (woolen) 5,310 pairs	$9,292 50
" " (cotton) 1,833 pairs	1,833 00
" Shirts, (woolen) 7,158	14,316 00
" " (cotton) 3,266	3,266 00
" Pillows, 2,114	1,268 40
" Pillow Cases, 264	105 60
" Bed Sacks, 1,630	3,463 75
" Blankets, 1,007	3,021 00
" Sheets, 274	274 00
" Wrappers, 508	1,498 60
" Handkerchiefs, 2,659	319 08
" Stockings, (woolen) 3,560 pairs	1,780 00
" " (cotton) 2,258 pairs	451 60
" Bed Utensils, 728	182 00
" Towels and Napkins, 10,000	1,500 00
" Sponges, 2,300	230 00
" Combs, 1,500	60 00
" Buckets, 200	75 00
" Soap, (Castile) 250 pounds	50 00
" Oil Silk, 300 yards	225 00
" Tin Basins, Cups, etc., 7,000	700 00
" Old Linen, Bandages, etc., 110 barrels	1,100 00
" Water Tanks, 7	70 00
" Water Coolers, 46	230 00
" Bay Rum and Cologne Water, 225 bottles	112 50
" Fans, 3,500	145 00
" Chloride of Lime, 11 barrels	99 00
" Shoes and Slippers, 4,000 pairs	2,400 00
" Crutches, 1,200	480 00
" Lanterns, 180	90 00
" Candles, 350 pounds	70 00
" Canvas, 300 square yards	360 00
" Musquito Netting, 648 pieces	810 00
" Paper, 237 quires	23 70
" Pants, Coats, Hats, 189 pieces	96 75
" Plaster, 16 rolls	4 00

Of Articles of Sustenance, viz.:

Of Fresh Poultry and Mutton, 11,000 pounds	1,540 00
" " Butter, 6,430 pounds	1,286 00
" " Eggs, (chiefly collected for the occasion at farm-houses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey,) 8,500 dozens	1,700 00
" " Garden Vegetables, 675 bushels	337 50
" " Berries, 48 bushels	72 00
" " Bread, 12,900 loaves	645 00
" Ice, 20,000 pounds	100 00
" Concentrated Beef Soup, 3,800 pounds	3,800 00
" " Milk, 12,500 pounds	3,125 00
" Prepared Farinaceous Food, 7,000 pounds	700 00
" Dried Fruit, 3,500 pounds	350 00
" Jellies and Conserves, 2,000 jars	1,000 00
" Tamarinds, 750 gallons	600 00
" Lemons, 116 boxes	580 00
" Oranges, 46 boxes	230 00
" Coffee, 850 pounds	272 00
" Chocolate, 831 pounds	249 30
" Tea, 426 pounds	383 40
" White Sugar, 6,800 pounds	1,156 00
" Syrups, (Lemon, etc.) 785 bottles	596 25
" Brandy, 1,250 bottles	1,250 00
" Whiskey, 1,168 bottles	700 80
" Wine, 1,148 bottles	861 00
" Ale, 600 gallons	180 00
" Biscuit, Crackers, and Rusk, 134 barrels	670 00
" Preserved Meats, 500 pounds	125 00
" Preserved Fish, 3,600 pounds	720 00
" Pickles, 400 gallons	120 00
" Tobacco, 100 pounds	70 00
" Tobacco Pipes, 1,000	5 00
" Indian Meal, 1,621 pounds	40 50
" Starch, 1,074 pounds	75 18
" Codfish, 3,848 pounds	269 36
" Canned Fruit, 582 cans	436 50
" " Oysters, 72 cans	36 00
" Brandy Peaches, 303 jars	303 00
" Catsup, 43 jars	11 00
" Vinegar, 24 bottles	3 00
" Jamaica Ginger, 43 jars	37 25
Total	$74,838 52

advice, and by a series of hygienic and medical tracts, warnings as to the dangers from bad diet, needless exposure, poor ventilation, ill-selected or badly-drained camps, and the neighborhood of infectious swamps and bottoms. All the knowledge of the exposures, wants, sicknesses of the army which it thus obtains, it tabulates in its Statistical Bureau, both for its own information and guidance, and for future scientific use. It looks with the utmost confidence on an advancement of Sanitary science by this means—of priceless life-saving value to all future military movements.

The publication of appeals, information, reports, to maintain open and frank relations with the homes and the public, from which its pecuniary and moral support must be derived, completes the round of the Commission's duties, always excepting the special labors in behalf of disabled soldiers and medico-military interests daily thrown on its hands.

To recapitulate with sole reference to expense, in round numbers, and with only an approximation to exactness. I add the following facts :

1. The Board of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Medical Committee, and Standing Committee, give their time and services gratuitously. They are refunded (in part) their traveling expenses; nothing more.

2. Their Agents, two hundred in number, General and Associate Secretaries, Medical and Sanitary Inspectors, Relief Agents, Clerks, depot and store-house keepers, wagoners, &c., receiving some more and some less, average just $2.00 per day, or less than ordinary mechanics' wages. Total $12,000 per month for the vast *human* machinery of the Commission, stretching from Texas to the Potomac, from before Charleston to Kansas.

3. About fifteen-sixteenths of all the eight millions the Commission has received, goes on to the backs, or into the mouths of the soldiers.

4. The cost of collecting and distributing supplies is less than *three per cent.*

5. About twenty-three hundred men are now, and for a long time have been, in daily use and enjoyment of the Homes and Lodges of the Commission.

6. The battle-field service of the Commission requires a large accumulation of funds and of supplies. At Murfreesboro', Antietam, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, sudden and vast demands were made, and are always likely to be made. Fifty thousand dollars would not cover the cost of our whole service in the first two weeks after any one of our great battles; at Gettysburg it was $75,000.

7. We reckon that if we divided all the aid we have given to the sick in regimental, general, and other hospitals, to men in peril of sickness from scurvy and exposure, it would amount to $3.20 a case; many men having received this several times, as often as they were sick. The seriously wounded have been often—as at Gettysburg—the receivers of as much as $10 aid per man. We mention this to show not how much, but how little, this sometimes called *extravagant* Commission costs, considering the blessings it is the almoner of.

Finally, the only uncertain element in these calculations, is *the estimated value of our supplies.* The uncertainty here is not due to want of great pains to ascertain the facts. We shall very soon be able to lay before the public the exact estimates, how many shirts and their estimated value, how many drawers, stockings, sheets, comforters, &c., and the estimated value of each; and they can then judge for themselves. Meanwhile they must give our statement only such credit as they may think our opportunity to know, and our desire to state frankly the exact truth, entitle it to.

With great regard,
Yours, truly,
HENRY W. BELLOWS,
President.

THE PEOPLE AND THE ARMY IN EUROPE.

It is the custom on the continent of Europe to keep up the organization of the army in all its branches in time of peace as well as in time of war. The staff, and the quartermaster's and medical department, are maintained, and carry on their work when the troops are in garrison as well as when in the field; and it has always been the boast of continental military men, when

arguing against the English and American custom of breaking up the machine as soon as the war is over, that in their way much suffering and confusion and shortcoming are avoided whenever there is a sudden outbreak of hostilities. And there is no doubt that there is immense gain in having the whole of the elaborate apparatus required for the feeding, clothing, doctoring, and lodging of the troops, in constant readiness. There is great saving of time and great saving of money, whenever the emergency arises which calls for its use. The persons who are to work it are on the spot, trained to their duties, and their superiors are familiar with their character and capacities; and there is, consequently, much less chance of fraud or corruption in the purchase and distribution of stores. The privations under which the entire British army before Sebastopol came very near succumbing in the first winter of the siege, were due almost altogether to the fact, that the commissariat and quartermaster's and medical department had to be improvised when the war broke out. There was hardly a man in them who had had any experience in the performance of the duties which then devolved on him. The quartermaster-general had to rely on officers drawn from line regiments, and who had every thing to learn as regards supplies and transportation after they took the field ; the commissariat was served by clerks taken suddenly from the foreign and other government offices in London ; and very few of the surgeons had ever been in charge of a regular hospital, and had ever had to take care of sick, except those of a single battalion in barracks. The world knows what the result was.

It does not appear, however, when the test of a sudden call for active service comes to be applied, even to the best organized of European armies, that it is by any means an easy matter for the Government to provide by any precautions, however elaborate, which have to be taken on a great scale—against the thousand contingencies to which an army is exposed, once it quits its quarters at home. There is a limit to the efficiency of every system, however well-planned, which has to be worked by men with ordinary nerves and ordinary capacities. There is sure to be a weak point in it—a flaw of some kind, which reveals itself whenever the strain begins to be felt. The French lost a whole division from cholera or fever, in the Dobrudscha, in the summer of 1854, mainly through the want of shelter, transport and medical attendance ; and in 1856 their army in the Crimea began to suffer severely from the lack of transportation by sea. And yet the French army is beyond all question the best organized in the world ; the one for which thorough system in the smallest as well as greatest things, has done most. A very large portion of the talent of a nation, in which talent of the highest order abounds in a very unusual degree, has for over half a century been devoted without stint to the task of perfecting every arrangement that can in the smallest degree contribute to its efficiency as a fighting machine. And among these arrangements it is well known all that relates to the health of the soldier holds the highest place.

We have now, in the case of the Prussian army taking the field against Denmark, a fresh proof that when the military authorities have done their best under the completest of military organizations, there may still remain voids which private benevolence can alone fill up. In other words, even our army, composed entirely of volunteers, raised and equipped in haste, with an improvised administration, and without many trained officers, is not by any means the only army which stands in need of a Sanitary Commission. We find from the *Cologne Gazette* of January 11, that:

"It is very desirable that without delay voluntary associations should be made by the public to furnish the German troops, now in arms against Denmark, with clothing suited to the cold weather. Their supply is not enough to protect them against this enemy. The subjoined letter from the Prussian Minister of War is a confession, and a very significant one too, although not nearly broad enough in its statements. The association in Halle to supply the Prussian troops sent to Holstein with warm winter clothing, asked the Minister of War whether he thought their purpose commendable and useful. He answered: 'It is true that it is the duty of this department to give our troops clothing suited for winter; but it is equally true that owing to the suddenness with which we have been obliged to move our army, it will be difficult to give the men a full supply of proper clothing, unless we receive the patriotic help of all good citizens. For these rea-

sons I shall be very grateful to your association for a full and prompt supply of woolen socks, gloves, under-shirts and drawers, and for articles for hospital use; and those who have money to give, can direct it in no way better than through your society.'"

Nor is this movement entirely a spontaneous one. The Government is stimulating it by open appeals. The same journal of January 12th says:

"A collection 'by authority' for the help of Prussian soldiers excites everywhere, but especially in the States outside of Prussia, very great feeling. The official call is as follows: 'Our columns are now moving towards Lubeck, to be ready to enter Holstein. In consequence of excessive cold weather the men suffer terribly for want of warm clothing. Many of the soldiers have no woolen socks, and only a little straw or a few rags with which to fill their shoes, and are in great danger of having their toes frost-bitten. Very few of them have shirts of any kind, or nearly enough under-clothing to protect them from the cold. I propose collecting articles of this kind, and money to purchase and have made others as fast as possible, to be forwarded to the army. I therefore appeal to all who are friends of our soldiers.'

"Breitenbauch, Royal Commissioner."

And in the same paper of the 15th, there is a long report of a debate in the House of Representatives at Berlin on the 13th. Mr. Becker moved:

"That it was the first duty of the Government to procure at once a full supply of stout underclothing suitable for the use of the soldiers in their winter campaign."

Mr. Rönne said:

"That after granting 300,000 thalers for an increase of pay in the army, we are now told that our troops suffer for necessary clothing, that the Government has been obliged to appeal to public charity for help. In the States with which we were in alliance these facts may well excite astonishment, for how can Prussia protect them with troops when our army is already in such a plight. It is the case too with the armies on the Polish border, as well as with that in Holstein; and in both places the patriotism of our women has been put to a practical test to overcome these sad necessities. The Minister of War tells us that our troops are supplied fully, and he tells the women who offer their help quite another story. I agree with him in giving them the heartiest thanks for their past labors and for all the good they mean to do in the future, but the Government must not be content with accepting their assistance; it must supply all that is wanted for a winter campaign promptly and plentifully."

The fact is, that it is not because armies now suffer more than they did in other wars, that we are witnessing both here and in Europe these voluntary efforts for their relief on the part of the people, but because the world has in the last fifty years made such advances in humanity that the public in Christian countries will not look on calmly while scenes of horror pass before their eyes, which in former times excited no comment whatever, and were deemed inevitable. During the great struggles which followed the French revolution—to go no further back—the sufferings and losses of all the great armies then in the field, from lack of supplies, medicines, attendance, and sanitary precautions, were prodigious. But not only was public benevolence at that period much less active than it is now, and human life less valued, but the means either of obtaining information or sending help so completely wanting, that voluntary organizations in aid of the sick and wounded would have been either impossible or useless. In the absence of newspapers, little was known of what was passing in the field; and that little came at irregular intervals by private letters, which were seldom received until weeks after the battle had been fought or the movement been made, which left its victims by the thousands on the field or the roadside. And it is hardly necessary to say, that without the electric telegraph, and the railroad, and the steamboat, it would have been absurd to have attempted to follow an army up either with sanitary counsels or with actual relief. A French army operating in Germany or Italy, an English army operating in Spain or the Crimea, or an American army in Tennessee or Louisiana, would have been, fifty years ago, as much out of the reach of their friends at home, as far removed from aid or advice, as they would be nowadays in China or Upper India. Sanitary Commissions, or, in other words, attempts on the part of people at home to lessen the misery of war by voluntary efforts, are new mainly because they are now for the first time feasible. The indifference of the public to the lot of the rank and file which shows itself in the history of all past wars, has now disappeared; but the change would have been of little value if science had not supplied the means of exhibiting it in action. The army would profit little by this pity, if it took three weeks to go from New York to Tennessee.

THE FAIRS.

The public mind appears seriously exercised at this moment upon the subject of "Raffling," in connection with "the Metropolitan" and other Fairs. The U. S. Sanitary Commission, representing the beneficence of all classes of the community towards our sick and wounded soldiers, and solicitous, on patriotic as well as humane grounds, to enlist the sympathies and cooperation of the largest number of American citizens in this common work of mercy, has felt it to be necessary to establish one rule in regard to the source of its support; *i.e.*, to accept, without question and from all quarters, such gifts as were brought to its treasury. Accordingly, neither political, theological, or moral questions have come before it. It has studiously avoided complication with the methods employed by those who have supplied its pecuniary necessities, declining to patronize or make itself responsible for either good or bad plans for raising money, and simply engaging, as trustees of the people's bounty, to spend the means placed in its hands in the most moral, the most patriotic, and most faithful manner. It holds itself strictly responsible for the safe custody, the wise and economical disbursment, and the most humane application of the funds committed to it; but not for the methods by which they are raised. Any other course would make the U. S. Sanitary Commission the moral censor of the public, and cut off the sympathies of large bodies of people—a loss even less important in a pecuniary than in a patriotic light.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the U. S. Sanitary Commission is indifferent to the morals of the community, or to the ways employed to aid and assist its own work. While it cannot prescribe those ways, or go behind the gifts it receives, to catechize the motives or the methods of its benefactors, it earnestly desires, as a body of thoughtful citizens engaged in so serious a business, to see a careful respect for the laws, a tender regard to the moral interests of society, a profound reverence for God and duty, animating all its supporters. Confessing that the moral interests of the community are far more important than the success of its own work, it could not desire to flourish at the expense of any permanent principle of truth, justice, and religion.

In regard to the "Raffling," if the question were one the Sanitary Commission had a right to settle, the Board could not hesitate to decide against it, as not being strictly legal; as being at the best of disputed moral complexion, and at the worst, decidedly evil in its tendencies if not wrong in its principle. The practical settlement of the question lies with the gentlemen and lady managers of the Fair. They have thus far endeavored in their plan to free raffling from its universally recognized evils, judging it to be an essential in some form to the success of the Fair. That they may, under the discussion which is now going on, see it to be as immediately expedient as it is desirable on several grounds to abandon it wholly, is the wish and hope of the Board. The Sanitary Commission is perfectly willing to sacrifice any pecuniary interest in the returns of the Fair, to the practical testing of the question, are "Raffles" necessary evils? They think not.

Knowing the conscientious character of the ladies who have the Fair in charge, and that their efforts are steadily directed by the most patriotic, humane, and elevated feelings, it is not necessary to add that we utterly repudiate any appearance of the least question of their own high motives in the course hitherto pursued by them in regard to this and all matters appertaining to the Metropolitan Fair.

THE CAMPAIGN AT NEWBERN, N. C.

I take advantage of the New York boat to-day to send a rapid report of the interesting events now transpiring here (Feb. 2d) deferring till the next mail the subjects of your communications of December 16th and 31st, which a protracted pneumonic attack has prevented me sooner responding to.

The enemy came down upon us in force yesterday, about 3 A. M. They attacked the outposts at Bachelor's Creek, nine miles up the railroad, held by the 132d New York, under Colonel Claassen, with a company also of the 1st North Carolina Union Volunteers, (whites.) The rebels attacked in overwhelming numbers. Eleven men held a large body of the enemy "at

bay," at a bridge about a mile and a half from camp, for more than an hour. The rebels, meanwhile felling trees and hauling rails, constructed a temporary bridge below, and crossed over cavalry, infantry, and artillery. Five companies of the 17th Massachusetts Volunteers, under Lieut.-Colonel Fellows, were already on the way from Newbern to re-enforce Colonel Claassen, but were not in season to interrupt the crossing. Col. Claassen fought desperately for his camp, the best-regulated camp I have seen in the service. At 9 A. M. he telegraphed that the rebels were across the creek, pressing him hard, and he was falling back. The rebels were reported at ten thousand to twelve thousand strong; prisoners say twelve thousand. Knowing that Col. Claassen had but a single assistant surgeon with his command, Dr. Gröninger, while Lieut.-Col. Fellows had his surgeon, Dr. Galloupe, I started with my brother at 10 A. M., horseback, in company with Dr. Cougill, medical inspector of hospitals of this department, and Dr. Morony, acting medical purveyor, with instruments and battle-field relief. Three miles out we encountered our infantry straggling in towards town, and reporting themselves pressed by numbers, and that the artillery had fallen back from Bachelor's Creek and taken position five miles out at the "Cross Roads;" that Dr. Galloupe was a mile and a half further on than we, at a house with a wounded officer. We pressed on. Soon the artillery and cavalry passed us in retreat, taking position at the railroad crossing, three miles from town, where the infantry had rallied in some numbers. We continued our course to the house where Dr. Galloupe had his hospital wagon and patient. Dr. Cougill, my brother, and myself rode up to the house and went in. We found him attending to Adjutant ——, of the 17th M.V., severely, and apparently fatally, wounded in the region of the stomach, and suffering extremely from the shock. We advised his immediate removal to the wagon and quick transmission to town. Dr. Galloupe was already making his preparations for it, his conveyance being excellently adapted for the purpose. We were now in advance of any supporting force, and the enemy rapidly following up our retreating soldiers. As we turned our horses into the road, after leaving Dr. Galloupe and his patient and attendants, we were saluted with four or five carbine shots from the enemy, who filled the road about three hundred yards behind us. We rode *rapidly* towards town until we got to the rear of our battery at the railroad crossing, and there halted until the rebels came in sight again, and had received fifteen or twenty rounds from our howitzers. Dr. Galloupe and the wounded adjutant were taken prisoners a minute after we left them. About 11 A. M. the last railroad train got in from Bachelor's Creek, with the sick, officers' families, &c. They were fired into, and much anxiety was subsequently felt for Col. Claassen and the rest of his staff and command. He, however, had taken to the swamp, and got in towards evening safely. At roll-call seventy of his command were missing; he knows that about thirty were killed outright by the enemy's sharp-shooters. There were *comparatively* few wounded. The 17th M. V. report about sixty missing. Only six or seven of the wounded are within our lines. Lieut.-Col. Fellows, of the 17th, is a prisoner. One man of the 132d had both legs taken off by a fence-rail, which was struck by a shell and swept against him. The same rail struck across the legs of Major Huston and disabled him, but not so as to prevent his attention to duty until this morning, when he gave himself up to rest and medical attention. The fate of small detachments of our outposts, occupying isolated positions, is still in doubt.

The enemy followed our troops to within sight of our defensive works, and yesterday afternoon were shelled from Forts Totten and Gaston. Our men have behaved with gallantry; and Gen. Palmer, now in command in the absence of Gen. Peck, on leave north, has the defences manned, and the whole force on the alert. On account of the superior force of the rebels we anticipated a night attack, which would bring most of the casualties within the intrenchments, and make most of the relief work at the general hospitals and in transitu from the intrenchments and posts to the wards. My brother prepared some dozens of small hampers, of a size convenient for

distribution along the lines of defence, and each containing the necessary appliances of a field hospital, and for individual relief on the field or on the road—such as stimulants, anæsthetics, lint, silk, adhesive plaster, bandages, linen, sponge, &c., &c. The agents of the Christian Commission, Rev. Messrs. Sage and Hammond, offered their services, and held themselves subject to call at any moment to assist in the relief. The night passed off, however, without any demonstration by the enemy on the land. They served us, however, a very clever and bold trick on the river—one from which we can derive not even a shadow of satisfaction, nor consider with any self-complacency. They boarded the gunboat Underwriter, lying in position in the Neuse River, and under the guns of Fort Stevenson on this bank and Fort Anderson on the opposite bank; took off all her officers, and all her crew, except some six or eight who escaped, and two or three killed on deck; set the gunboat on fire, and she burned up. Capt. Westervelt, who commanded the gunboat, is said to have been carried off, bound hand and foot. They had previously offered a reward for his capture, on account of his stringent blockade in the waters of the Albemarle. The Underwriter had a crew of some seventy to eighty men. The town were awakened about 4 A. M. to-day by the explosion of her guns, and about a quarter past five her magazine blew up with a terrific explosion. Several of the boats' crew jumped overboard and swam ashore; so also did some five or six of the rebels who had tarried too long on board. They say that the boarding party were marines, engineers, and other necessary hands for working a war steamer; that they were brought on from Savannah for this very purpose, and have been prowling on the banks of the river several weeks, awaiting their opportunity. Their object was to use her at once in a raid among the shipping in the harbor and about the wharves; but the proximity of the forts, which commenced firing on her as they were weighing anchor, baffled them. They numbered about a hundred and twenty. One of our marines, who swam ashore, is in the hospital, with a bullet wound in the knee; had the ball extracted this forenoon. The whole affair of the gunboat's capture was a well-managed surprise, awfully discreditable to our flotilla.

Yesterday afternoon, while the skirmishing was going on in the broad clearing between Fort Totten and the woods, and all in sight of the traverse parapet of the fort, Dr. Baker, who has been attending the small-pox hospitals, started out, with three ambulances and a flag of truce, to bring into town the inmates of the white small-pox hospital, about a mile in front of the breastworks. He was seen to parley with the enemy for some time, when they took him off prisoner, with his ambulances, drivers, and teams. They had previously taken away the negro attendants of the hospital, and *all the provisions.* Dr. Baker is assistant surgeon of the 12th New York Cavalry.

Last night I learn that our independent scouts, or one at least, ventured in a boat up the river, near to Bachelor's Creek, to try and discover the fate of some of our unaccounted-for detachments. He heard towards morning discharges of rifles, which leads us to suppose some of our soldiers missing still retain their organization; and the report this afternoon is, that Lieut.-Col. Fellows is holding them together, and endeavoring to fight his way in.

Our cavalry have been skirmishing all the forenoon in front of Fort Totten; and occasionally the fort has thrown a heavy shell over their heads into the woods, where the enemy are sheltered. My brother has just come in (3 P. M.) from Fort Totten, and says the enemy are reported to be throwing up breastworks at the railroad crossing, three miles out the Neuse Road.

The forts are now, (4½ P. M.,) at intervals, firing heavy guns.

We have had no communication with the enemy. The medical director thinks Drs. Galloupe and Baker (prisoners) will see that our wounded captured are well cared for; and the General is not inclined at this moment to parley with the rebels.—*Dr. Page's Report.*

Mr. Gordon Grant, Relief Agent of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, left Lakeport on the 16th ult. with vegetables for the troops at Fort Pitt and Ship Island. Mr. Grant afterwards went on a like mission to the Brashear City Military Hospitals.

THE COMMISSION AMONG THE CONVALESCENTS.

At the late quarterly meeting of the Commission, a very full and interesting report was presented by Miss A. M. Bradley, the agent of the Commission at the Convalescent Camp, Alexandria, Va. It covered the operations of Relief from January 17th to December 31st, 1863.

During this period of twelve months 111,825 soldiers entered the camp, in passing from the military hospitals to their respective regiments, or to their homes on certificates of permanent disability. To these soldiers, including the inmates of the Camp Hospital, Miss Bradley distributed the following "Sanitary Stores" among others: 64 blankets, 67 quilts, 355 pairs of slippers, 10,096 towels, 100 woolen vests, 850 woolen mittens, 1,263 woolen shirts, 200 woolen drawers, 500 cotton drawers, 24,200 envelopes, 1,272 cotton shirts, 803 coarse combs, 178 fine combs, besides corn starch, cocoa, beef stock, brandy, rice, sugar, tamarind vinegar, etc., etc., etc.

Miss Bradley's method of issuing the stores was eminently judicious, and may be given in her own words:

"I arrived on the 17th December. On the 21st, when the soldiers were all assembled in line for inspection, I passed around with the officers and supplied seventy-five men with woolen shirts; I worked on the principle of supplying only the very needy. The same day I visited the tents, and finding many sick men, induced the commanding officer to place at my disposal some hospital tents. I soon had a hospital, and commenced to nurse such poor fellows as I gathered from among the well men of the camp. I found others whose discharge papers had been lying in the office for some time; these men being too feeble to stand in the cold and wet and wait their turn. I carried them to my hospital and warmed and clothed them, applied for their papers, and then sent them into Washington on the way to their homes."

* * * * *

In order to guard against misapplication of the stores, Miss Bradley prepared cards to be used as requisitions upon her Storehouse, and placed them in the hands of a selected soldier in each division in the camp. This soldier or wardmaster examined the knapsacks of the men in his division, and thus acquired a knowledge of the real wants of all. Having ascertained the actual wants of the men, he sent them to the quartermaster to ascertain whether he would issue clothing on Government account. If not, they were then sent to Miss Bradley to obtain clothing or other necessaries from the Commission storehouse. By constant daily personal inspection, Miss Bradley rendered herself familiar with the wants of the soldiers, and supplied them quickly and fully. She says that from May 1st, 1863, to December 31st, 1863, with few exceptions, all the soldiers discharged from service in this camp were conveyed by her to the Commission Lodges at Washington. The number of such beneficiaries was over two thousand. When it is remembered that the vast majority of these men were suffering from incurable disease, prostrated in strength, and rendered excessively sensitive to all the trials and exposures of transportation, the value of Miss B.'s services may be in some sense appreciated. They were conveyed to Washington in ambulances, and transferred to the comfortable Lodges of the Commission to await, in comparative ease and comfort, the completion, through Commission agents, of their discharge papers. Many lives were thus saved and incalculable suffering prevented.

* * * * *

"I have never carried any point by storm; the commanding officer has always listened to my suggestions and examined my plans, and then accorded full approval and support," says Miss B.

* * * * *

"State agents and others have sometimes tried to cause me to leave the camp, but my methods and operations have always been justified by the countenance and orders of the military authorities."

* * * * *

Every one of the 111,825 inmates of the camp has passed under Miss Bradley's observation, and had his wants relieved, without any violence done to military discipline, or weakening of the sense of responsibility on the part of the officers charged to provide for the welfare of the camp. Her acts of kindness have been so numerous and complicated, that the limits of the *Bulletin* would not suffice to permit them to be recorded in detail. A.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE NAVY.

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
823 Broadway,
New York, *February 9th*, 1864.

Madam: I have received from Mr. Strong your note of yesterday, drawing attention to a statement that alleged neglect by the U. S. Sanitary Commission of the claims of the navy on its regard, is alienating friends who are not informed as to the facts of the Commission's past and present relations to that arm of the public service.

Though you do not need to be again told what you know so well, that the Commission has from the first sought to exercise its functions impartially, as a "Commission of inquiry and advice in respect to the sanitary interests of the *United States forces*,"* whether afloat or ashore, you will perhaps allow me to present to you such facts pertinent to the matter as now occur to me, for the information of any of your correspondents who may be less familiar with our work than you are.

Soon after the organization of the Commission in 1861, its good offices were officially tendered to the Hon. the Secretary of the Navy, and its practice has ever since been to renew to the chief of the medical bureau of the navy and to commanders of squadrons, as occasion has arisen, its offers of service and assistance. At its last quarterly meeting in January, the Commission appointed a committee to confer with Dr. Whelan, the chief of the naval medical bureau, concerning the present sanitary condition and wants of the navy. That its opportunities have been vastly fewer to serve the navy than the sister service in the field, detract not from its disposition to minister equitably to all the national forces whenever it may be privileged to serve them. The Commission's view of equity, in assisting the two branches of the service, is to give aid in proportion to the *need* of each.

The navy, from its compact organization, its adequate system of supply vessels, which besides the ordinary stores of food, clothing, and medicine, regularly take to each of the blockading squadrons, ice, fresh meat, and vegetables, and bring home its sick men to its well-provided Marine Hospitals; and its small percentage of casualties in its peculiar blockade duty, has much less frequently than the army afforded to the Commission the opportunity of supplying any lack of governmental service. The fact, too, that every sailor is at home on ship board, receives regularly his food and clothing, and generally secures his sleep, insures for the navy an average sanitary condition far higher than the army often attains.

And yet the occasions are, though relatively, not really few, in which the Commission has been able to supplement for the navy the provision which the best-ordered bureaux cannot in time of extended operations secure against occasional deficiencies.

Without referring to our records I may mention some of the facts of which I am personally cognizant, which illustrate the above statement.

During the early summer of 1862, the gunboats in the Pamunkey River guarding the supply depot of the Army of the Potomac, at White House Va., received not unfrequently ice, and wine, and delicate food, for the comfort of their sick. So in the James River, for a month after the memorable "seven days," the naval flotilla shared to the extent of its needs the attention of the Commission, required fortunately far less by it than by the land forces.

In July the Commission communicated to Commodore Wilkes its willingness to send semi-weekly a steamboat from Hampton Roads to the uppermost station of the James River Flotilla, which should visit each gunboat and naval vessel, receive its sick, and care for them while in transit to the hospital at Portsmouth, or elsewhere, at the pleasure of the Commodore.

The Blockading Squadron before Charleston, and the commands of Admirals Farragut and Porter on the Mississippi, have, on many an occasion, had reason to bless the kind hearts at home who projected and sustain the U. S. Sanitary Commission, whose open hand is never withheld from the sufferers of either service, when once their wants are known.

You recollect the occasion when during

* *Authorization of the Commission*, by the Secretary of War and the President of the United States, June, 1861.

the bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, below New Orleans, the medical officers of the navy were enabled by the assistance of Dr. Blake, the Commission's Inspector, to establish at Pilot Town, in the Southwest Passage, an hospital for the fleet, and to furnish it liberally with sponges, chloroform, oiled silk, adhesive plasters, bandages, lint, sheets, &c., &c., at a time when the destitution of the fleet as regards these articles was most complete.*

I pick up the "Sanitary Reporter" of January 1st, and read that on a recent trip of the Sanitary steamer Clara Bell down the Mississippi, the Commission's agent made provision of fresh vegetables to supply the wants of the U. S. gunboats about Vicksburg; and between Natchez and New Orleans furnished similar supplies to five others, the Osage, Chilicothe, Choctaw, Lafayette, and Champion.

While I am writing this letter a report comes in from a Relief Agent of the Commission, who has recently visited the naval stations at and about Key West, Florida.

I make a brief extract: "We also found at Tortugas the gunboat ——, Capt. —— commander, no surgeon on board, number of men sixty-five. Capt. —— stated that there has been no vegetables on board during the past six weeks. Consequently I thought it proper to issue to the men a limited supply, which was very gratefully received."

I have frequent reason to know that the officers of the navy themselves do not share the opinions of those who think that the Commission neglects the navy. That some of them at least feel differently, is shown by the fact that on the last day of National Thanksgiving the officers of the sloop-of-war Saratoga made a generous offering in aid of the treasury of the Commission, of whose impartial beneficence they had been witnesses; and by the other fact that at the late fair in aid of the Cincinnati Branch of the Commission, both officers and crews of the Northern Mississippi flotilla, from the Admiral to the powder boys, cheerfully gave a day's pay to swell the funds, which were to return in part to them converted into the material of relief for their future necessities.

Desiring to enable you to set right your correspondents, I have not waited to seek evidence from our archives, but hope that I have been able to show that the U. S. Sanitary Commission has ever desired to lend its helping hand to any portion of the national forces, East, West, or South, afloat or ashore, that requires its ministry.

I am, madam, very truly yours,

J. Foster Jenkins,

General Sec'y of the U. S. Sanitary Com.

Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler, New York.

* See *The U. S. Sanitary Commission, A Sketch of its Purposes and Work, p.* 202. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 16mo, pp. 300.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TROOPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

In the month of February, 1863, the undersigned, by order of the Executive Committee of the Commission, established a depot for sanitary and hospital stores, at Beaufort, S. C., in this department.

The Commission previously had had agents here, but no permanent station. We were warmly welcomed by Major-General David Hunter, commanding the department, and by him sustained until he was relieved early in June following.

At this period ———— regiments were stationed at eleven different localities, and extending over the entire department, a distance of 250 miles. To carefully inspect these regiments was the first business of the undersigned. The results of this inspection have been communicated to the proper department of the Commission. I may here state a very noticeable difference in the morale of the two corps then constituting the command, believing that neglect of sanitary laws, quite as much as all other circumstances, had to do with the irregularities and dissatisfaction prevalent in certain camps.

The larger portion of this command, mostly from New England and New York, had been here from the occupancy of these islands in November, 1861. They were inured to toil, obedient to discipline, observant of sanitary laws, in person and quarters, and were an efficient, contented body of men. By the side of these, were regiments from the —— army corps, who were discontented, and occasionally accused of a tendency to insubordination, neglectful of conditions essential to health. Among these there was a much greater percentage of sickness than in other portions of the army similarly situated. The first business of the inspector was to advise officers and privates of the necessity of stricter compliance with sanitary laws, to secure an increased standard of health. And with this compliance came

not health, simply, but a marked improvement in efficiency and discipline. This fact was subsequently acknowledged by those in command. We are justified in ascribing the improved morale to attention to sanitary rules, hitherto neglected, by the fact that in this —— corps were regiments subjected to all the conditions of locality, &c., which produced in contiguous regiments a disorderly spirit, but which were efficient, contented, and happy; and that these were the regiments most remarkable for personal neatness, and for the cleanliness of their camps and quarters. Your inspector believes that not the least of the benefits in this war rendered to officers by the Sanitary Commission, has been its indirect influence in promoting discipline by increased attention to sanitary precautions, among the men of their respective commands.

Among the first efforts to mitigate suffering in this department, was the attempt to alleviate the condition of the soldier going North, discharged from the service in consequence of sickness. Up to this time, the man who had served his country faultlessly, and sickened in her service, was discharged; and without any provision for his enfeebled condition, in clothing or care, was shipped upon any Government transport, as a thing no longer useful. The consequences can be readily seen—much suffering and many deaths in transit. The inspector immediately supplied all that could contribute to the personal comfort of these unfortunate men; and, in some instances, sent attendants to minister to their wants upon the voyage. This, however, could not meet the exigency entirely. Upon these transports was no accommodations, nor proper medical care. After consultation by your inspector with members of the Commission, and subsequently with Gen. Hunter, the *Cosmopolitan*, a spacious steamer, with capacity for three hundred and twenty-five beds, was set apart by the General as a hospital ship, for the purpose of conveying the sick or wounded to their destination, and consigned to the medical director of the department.

The Commission immediately issued to this steamer two hundred and fifty beds, and other requisites; and has since continued to contribute supplies. This provision has been crowned with success; and under the able management of the surgeons assigned it by the medical director, many lives have been saved that must by ordinary modes of transportation been sacrificed.

The last two weeks in March, and first two in April, were devoted to preparation for the first Charleston expedition. Abundant preparations were made by us for any exigency; but happily no casualty occurred, nor was there any call upon our stores.

A schooner of ample dimensions had been assigned us by General Hunter, giving, as was his wont, timely notice for preparation. And here it is but simple justice to this officer to remark, that there has been no reticence in his communications to the Commission of whatever would contribute to an early preparation for any emergency. Immediately after this unsuccessful movement, preliminary steps were taken towards a repetition of the advance upon Charleston, by way of Morris Island, etc. General Gilmore has since secured Morris Island as the base for further advances.

The months of May and June were devoted by your inspector and his assistant to the wants of the troops conducting offensive operations against Morris Island, and of those stationed at Hilton Head, Beaufort, Fernandina, and other posts in the department.

Very early in July active operations commenced on Folly Island. A large brig (and a tow) had been assigned us by the general commanding, to transfer all necessary stores. On the 8th and 9th we took in cargo from the depot at Beaufort; on the 9th left Port Royal harbor; and early on the morning of the 10th, in the waters of Stono, threw out to the breeze, from the mast-head, the flag of the Sanitary Commission. The successful assault was made on that morning, with trifling loss on our part. The circumstances connected with it have been already communicated, and I will not repeat them. It is proper, however, to remark, in this connection, that the *Cosmopolitan*, which was returning from a trip north with disabled men, was at 8 A. M. passing off Stono, and noticing what was transpiring, ran to Hilton Head, fifty-two miles distant, reported, and returned to the scene of operations before 4 P. M.; thus making one hundred and four miles in less than eight hours. I mention this to show the zeal of the medical department in the discharge of its obligations. And if at any point in this article I speak of seeming deficiencies in that department, I wish it distinctly understood that these arose from circumstances beyond control, and not from any lack of sympathy, activity, or intelligence on the part of the medical staff.

If the history of this war is ever properly written, its brightest page will be that which recounts (imperfectly even) the untiring assiduity and self-denial of the medical staff in the discharge of its immense responsibilities.

Dr. Crane, medical director, and Dr. Dibble, chief medical officer of the island, with ambulances, immediately proceeded to the upper end of the island, where early in the day hospitals had been improvised for the wounded, principally Confederates, few of our men having suffered. These wounded were consigned to your inspector,

who transferred them to the *Cosmopolitan*, in charge of Dr. Bontacore, for which position there are few so well qualified by professional ability and energy.

The wounded, comfortably placed in berths, were the same night removed to Hilton Head; and the next morning, at eight o'clock, the *Cosmopolitan* entered the harbor. During the morning it was ascertained that the boat could ascend Folly River, on the opposite side of the island, within a half mile of the hospitals. At 11 A. M. the boat was anchored there. At 12 M. of the same day, (July 11,) an unsuccessful assault, in which we lost one hundred and thirty-one men, was made upon Fort Wagner, to which the enemy had retired the morning previous. These wounded were first cared for at the hospitals, and thence transferred to the boat. And here I ought to pay a tribute to the untiring energy and tact of Messrs. Hoadley and Day, of the Commission, who, with their assistants, met the necessities of every wounded man on the preceding, on this, and on subsequent days; administering to their wants in the temporary hospitals, supplying clothing, accompanying the ambulances to the boat, furnishing extra clothing and stores upon it, if needed, on its passage to the general hospitals at the Head and Beaufort; cheerful under exhausting labors, and inspiring the sufferer with hope. From the 11th to the 18th the willing strength of the whole command was taxed continuously in preparation for the coming assault. Every particle of transportation was necessarily devoted to the munitions of war, which accounts, in part, for any deficiencies that may have been experienced in the medical and commissariat departments. In this interim the Commission added in large quantities to the stores it already had on Morris Island; conveyed thither by a circuitous route, not less than seven miles, in rowboats, furnished, and in part manned, by the obliging quartermaster, Captain Dunton. The men detailed for this unusual and somewhat hazardous employment, (the enemy holding one bank of the stream,) worked night and day with a will; and many a poor fellow who subsequently received the benefit of the supplies of the Commission, may thank these soldiers for the sole and laborious method by which these abundant supplies were placed within available distance. On the evening of the 15th our tents were arranged and flag floating. After consulting Brig.-General Seymour, commanding the advanced force, it was resolved to supply every man in the front, and ultimately all who should participate in the assault, with tea, Boston crackers, and concentrated beef for soup. This provision was absolutely essential, from circumstances already given; and many a poor fellow, on the night of the 18th, fought with great bravery, aided by the encouragement and strength afforded by this food, continuously bestowed by the Commission for nearly seventy-two hours previous.

The manner of the attack, (on Saturday night, the 18th July,) incidents connected with it, disposition of the respective forces, numbers, &c., being purely military matters, I shall pass over. The participation of your employees in the scenes which transpired I will briefly describe.

On the afternoon of the 18th each individual attached to the Commission had his work assigned, and the means with which to accomplish it put within his reach; and greater praise cannot be given than the statement of the simple truth, that the next morning witnessed that each man (with one or two exceptions, and for a few moments only, and in circumstances of great peril) had faithfully discharged the duty appointed him.

The Sanitary corps were distributed as follows: A portion to act as auxiliary to the medical force in the front and in the hospitals; another to assist the wounded at the hospital, and conduct them thence to the boats, (two beside the *Cosmopolitan* had been secured,) which were to convey them to the general hospitals at Beaufort; and a third to render any additional assistance which might become necessary in their transit. This terrible repulse illustrated the benefits and defined the position of the Sanitary Commission. For on this fatal night, to the extent of my knowledge, not a blanket nor change of apparel, nor bedsack nor pillow, to save torn limbs or fractured heads from the crowded decks, but was furnished by the Commission. As previous to the assault the Commission fed, so now it supplied whatever could mitigate the sufferings of the unfortunate soldier. Abundant changes of clothing were placed upon each boat, to use if necessary during the voyage. In anticipation of casualties the Commission, previous to the expedition, had supplied the five hospitals in Beaufort to the extent of their capacity. On the arrival of the wounded six more hospitals were opened, and fully furnished from our stores.

We will pass over the interim of ten days on the field. Nature, meanwhile, is not forgetful of her dues. For weeks previous to the assault, in the enthusiasm of toil and confidence of triumph she had given the soldier credit for her expenditures; but now in the despondency which ever follows defeat, the exhaustion of vital force, the scantily furnished and unsuitable diet, with depressing climate and continuous labor, she prosecutes her claim. Decisive evidence of a tendency to scurvy becomes quite general throughout the command. And although inspired by the unwavering

hope of ultimately reducing Charleston, the vital forces were compelled to succumb, and soon, in many instances, one half the regiment answered to the sick call. Here again the untrammeled capacity of the Commission for immediate action demonstrated its utility. Your inspector made at once immense requisitions on the Commission, which were honored with a liberality that will forever endear them to these suffering patriots. The abundance of fresh vegetables and acid fruits which they furnished, soon produced a decided and happy change. And here it may be remarked that the ordinary diarrhœas and even dysentery of this region are most successfully treated by the exhibition of acids. Pickles, onions, vinegar, lime juice, the mineral acids, particularly nitric and the "Liquor Ferri Nitratis," proved the most certain remedies. At this point was introduced a new feature by the agents of the Commission in this department, and ultimately sanctioned by their superiors. This was to supply with vegetables not only the sick and wounded, but all on duty; which seemed the only way to check the prevailing malady. The malady was thus not only checked, but eradicated; for at the present time not one well-marked case of scurvy—the scourge of crowded, ill-nourished troops—is reported in the entire command. The appreciation of this act of the Commission in furnishing these absolutely essential supplies, cannot be better illustrated than by the congratulatory order of the Maj.-Gen. Commanding, which was read at the head of every regiment throughout the department; unless, indeed, the voluntary honor paid the flag of the Commission by the passing salute of various regiments be so considered.

Another feature peculiar to this department has been a liberal supply of ice, furnished by the Commission to all privates in the command. The frozen streams of Maine have been made to cool, not only the burning lips of fever, but to assuage the thirst of exhausting toil in South Carolina. It is believed a far greater amount of labor and a higher standard of health have been secured by these daily issues of ice to every soldier.

There are two points in connection with this campaign that deserve special notice. One the constant and still continued aid rendered your employees by the military authorities. Not a wish could be suggested but it was complied with, and not unfrequently requests were anticipated. Fines and goods confiscated for infraction of laws of trade have been turned over to the Commission for distribution to the soldier. And especially has the nurturing care of the head of the department, Maj.-Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, been extended to the Commission.

The other point to which I would call attention is, the fraternal welcome and assistance in the discharge of duty extended by the entire medical corps in the department. Their systematic aid has rendered unnecessary the employment of numerous agents, lightened the personal labors of your inspector, and conferred upon him obligations that he will ever remember. And here it is proper to state that the devotion of many of these medical men to their regiments has awakened everlasting gratitude in the hearts of the recipients, and called forth the admiration of every beholder. Though not so directly exposed to the bullets of the enemy, yet to a danger even greater, by constant contact with disease, no class of men in the army deserves so well of their country as the regimental surgeons.

The enthusiasm that fired the soldier in the earlier period of the siege may have somewhat abated, but his determination to do remains unchanged. Many instances of chivalrous daring could be given, but these belong to military history. The health of the command is good; the total of sickness and casualties at present not exceeding 6¾ per cent.

The amount of expenditures during the first eight weeks of the siege was exceedingly liberal, and has secured for the Commission a character for acute discernment and active sympathy with the suffering soldier that will ever be remembered by the army in this department.

It may be remarked that the necessity for these large issues was, in part, occasioned by the accession of troops from the north, in a most destitute and enfeebled condition. All the receipts and issues for the current year are appended.

Within the past six weeks your inspector has visited each of the posts in the department, and has been exceedingly gratified to witness the improved condition of the men, their buoyancy of spirit, intention to keep the field while their country needs their services, and not least, the almost paternal confidence with which they regard the United States Sanitary Commission.

RECEIPTS AND ISSUES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

	Received.	*Issued.*	*In store.*
Cotton shirts	4,900	4,544	356
Woolen "	5,758	3,534	2,224
Cotton drawers	3,163	3,013	150
Cotton flannel drawers	568	406	162
Woolen "	2,676	1,552	1,124
Cotton socks	2,107	1,890	217
Woolen "	3,532	1,271	2,261
Slippers	2,736	2,499	237
Wrappers	1,089	789	300
Handkerchiefs	9,154	6,814	2,340
Outside clothing.....boxes.	6	5	1
Bed-sacks	1,472	1,350	122
Pillow ticks	1,888	1,517	371
Pillows	1,263	1,118	145
Pillow cases	3,206	2,396	610
Sheets	2,859	2,531	328
Blankets	701	435	266
Quilts	712	682	29

		Received.	*Issued.*	*In store.*
Towels		9,776	7,106	2,670
Cushions		2,213	2,023	190
Lint	bbls.	39	32	7
Bandages	"	34	31	3
Old cotton		112	91	21
Groceries, miscellaneous	lbs.	104	104	..
Beef-stock	"	3,629	2,885	744
Dried fruit	bbls.	70	63	7
" apples	"	87	82	5
Green "	"	209	209	..
Ale	"	5	5	..
Crackers	"	392	330½	61½
Sugar, white	"	34½	32½	2
Vinegar	"	36	30	6
Cabbage in currie	"	255	253	2
Onions	"	219	217	2
Pickles	"	119	107	2
Jellies and preserves	boxes.	65	63	2
Domestic wine	"	70	63	7
Foreign "	botts.	619	583	36
Brandy	"	612	542	70
Whisky	"	638	566	72
Berry, Cordial	"	582	526	56
" Shrub	"	324	300	24
Cherry Brandy	"	484	472	12
Blackberry "	"	184	184	..
Lemons	boxes.	40	40	..
Conct. Lemon	"	6	6	..
Cider	cases.	16	15	1
Syrups	boxes.	4	3	1
Ext. Ginger		15	13	2
" "	bbls.	2	2	..
Arrow Root	lbs.	225	182	43
Apple Butter	galls.	60	57	3
Beef-stock	lbs.	3,629	2,885	744
Butter	"	375	355	20
Broma	"	216	192	24
Candles	"	108	81	27
Cheese	"	135	115	20
Cocoa	"	400	359	41
Chocolate	"	1,400	920	480
Coffee	"	1,452	1,071	381
Conds. Milk	"	4,002	3,170	832
Corn Starch	"	2,150	1,366	784
Tapioca	"	100	100	..
Farina	"	2,300	1,436	864
Ext. Ginger	boxes.	15	13	2
" "	barrels.	2	2	..
Cider	cases.	16	15	1
Gelatine	boxes.	10	8	2
Nutmegs	lbs.	2	2	..
Oat Meal	"	150	150	..
Tea	"	560	510	50
Tomatoes	boxes.	107	101	6
" fresh	bushels.	50	50	..
Fish, preserved	lbs.	5,000	5,000	..
Mustard	"	25	22	3
Tamarinds	bbls.	10	10	..
Lemons	boxes.	40	40	..
" Concent.	"	6	6	..
Oranges	bbls.	70	70	..
Hospital utensils	doz.	12	12	..
Alcohol	galls.	10	7	3
Bay Rum and Cologne	botts.	200	180	20
Fans		2,000	2,000	..
Combs	gross.	10	6	4
Lanterns		26	22	4
Sponges	lbs.	8	5	3
Tin Cups		1,705	1,693	12
" Pans or basins		804	792	12
" Plates		925	920	5
" Spoons		1,000	978	22
Flannel bandages		2,236	1,911	325
Lime and Disf. Agents	bbls.	8	4	4
Pipes	box.	1	1	..
Tobacco, papers	doz.	205	205	..
Reading matter	boxes.	6	6	..
Ice	tons.	390	300	90
Quinine	ozs.	62	29	33
Morphine	"	3	319	53
Chloroform	lbs.	25	22	3
Tannin	ozs.	6	6	..
Liq. Ferri Nitratis	lbs.	55	44	11
Mosquito Netting	pieces.	60	60	..
Eggs	doz.	79	79	..
" Nog	boxes.	2	2	..
Oil Silk		70	36	34
Rubber Cloth		63	35	28
Miscellaneous	boxes.	70	69	1
Hops	barrels.	2	1	1
Fresh garden vegetables		15	15	..
Potatoes		354	354	..

—*Dr. Marsh's Report.*

THE PENSION AGENCY AT WASHINGTON.

The following is a brief statement of the work of this agency for the part of the year 1863 in which it was in operation, to wit: from February 10 to December 31, both inclusive:

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR PENSIONS MADE OUT AND FILED IN THE GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFICE.

In February	116
" March	121
" April	199
" May	133
" June	87
" July	67
" August	112
" September	120
" October	64
" November	53
" December	69
Total number of claims	1,141

No exact record of the *number of claims* allowed or rejected was kept previous to the first of July. There were but few:

	Allowed.	*Rejected.*
Estimated number decided before July 1st	25	—
No. in July	56	15
" August	59	10
" September	58	19
" October	48	12
" November	98	13
" December	73	31
	417	100

Total number of claims decided 517

Leaving yet in the Pension Office undecided claims 624

No record was kept of the amount of correspondence of the office previous to the month of October. Since then it has been as follows:

Number of *circular* letters in which blanks had to be filled for the three months, October, November, and December:	
Inclosed with claims allowed	215
" " rejected	53
To officers asking certificates for claimants	387
Total of *circular* letters	655
Number of letters *written in full:*	
To office claimants	286
To persons having claims elsewhere	14
In reference to back-pay and bounty	25
To Commissioner of Pensions, 8; miscellaneous 50	58
Total letters *written in full*	383
Total number of letters for the three months	1,038

The correspondence was light for the first four or five months, and has gradually increased ever since.

Mr. Bascom, the director, adds in his report:

"During the period covered by this report I was assisted by two clerks; the first, Charles M.

Bliss, of Woodford, Vermont, who came into the office about the first of March, and left for home the last of July; the second, Albert P. Macomber, of Westfield, New York, who came the first of August. The latter, who was a young man of rare worth, continued in the prompt and faithful discharge of the duties devolved upon him until the 15th day of December.

"An attack of small pox, which began on that day, and was severe from the first, terminated in death, after twelve days, on the 27th. His loss is much lamented by all who formed his acquaintance while in this office."

THE HOSPITALS AT WASHINGTON.

[Extracts from the quarterly report of G. C. Caldwell, Hospital Visitor of Sanitary Commission within defences of Washington.]

During the first two or three weeks after my return, (Nov. 13th,) the wants of the hospitals were large and pressing, owing to the great number of sick and wounded received from the army within a short time. The sick sent up when the army made its last advance, were deposited in Washington hospitals, while such of the wounded in the following battles as were brought from the front, were left at Alexandria.

* * * * * *

During the whole six weeks since my return, woolen under-clothing has been in most constant demand—in some hospitals to be used only in wards, and not to be taken away by men when leaving; in others, to be given to needy men going home or back to their regiments. I have been very emphatic in my stipulations with those to whom I entrust this clothing in the hospitals for distribution, that it shall be given only to NEEDY MEN, such as those having families whom they support, or who have *not* received any *pay* for several months and are destitute of means: and I think that this stipulation has in general been complied with.

* * * * * *

When the hospitals were filled with sick and wounded, four or five weeks ago, there were many pressing calls for head rests that could not be met because there were none in store. In other respects the kind of articles sought for has been about the same as usual. [Our Branches will understand this.]

Since the date of my last report, eight or ten regiments at hospitals have been added to my list; several of them belong to cavalry regiments encamped at Camp Stoneman. Very pressing wants were relieved by my first visits to some of these hospitals.

Since my return to my post I have made over one hundred and ninety visits to the various general, post, and regimental hospitals within my reach, and have left about as many orders to be sent in to the Central Office, for needed articles of food and clothing.

YONKERS SANITARY FAIR.

We regret to have been obliged to postpone until now all notice of the Fair in aid of the Sanitary Commission which is being held in the village of Yonkers, and is to continue through the week ending February 20th. It has been organized in the same way as the fairs which have been got up on a larger scale in the great cities, mainly, we need hardly say, through the exertions of the ladies; and it shows how much may be done, even in small places, by a few earnest and energetic men and women.

Contributions of all kinds have been solicited and accepted — contributions in money; contributions of every production of the farmers, manufacturers, machinists, mechanics, merchants, clothiers, jewelers, milliners, gardeners; contributions of music, decorations, fruits, flowers, and refreshments; contributions or loans for exhibition in the fine arts and sciences—relics, memorials, and curiosities of every sort; contributions of valentines; contributions of lectures, concerts, and dramatic entertainments.

The whole arrangements of the Fair were assigned to committees on finance, rooms and decorations, lectures, music and entertainments, refreshments, fancy work, valentines, &c., war memorials, curiosities, &c., farmers' products, groceries and provisions, paintings and fine arts, mechanics' and useful arts, flowers and fruits, dry goods, books and stationery, and printing —each having duties corresponding to their titles.

WHAT THE SURGEONS SAY OF THE COMMISSION.

[Extract from a letter from GEORGE E. HOLBROOK, Relief Agent Second Army Corps, (POTOMAC,) dated January 24th.]

"One of the medical officers told me that his hospital had been inspected by General —— and wife. The men were so comfortably situated that Mrs. —— inquired how the men could be so comfortable here in the field, where none of these things could be obtained by money, and were not furnished by the Government. She went to the head of one of the men's beds and there found the whole mystery solved:— These things had been furnished by the Sanitary Commission. 'You patronize the Sanitary Commission?' she said. 'Yes,' replied the surgeon, 'I don't know how we could get along without it, for it is always just where we want

it.' Soon after she had gone the surgeon received a number of pillow-cases for his hospital from her—many more, indeed, than he needed, for she herself had brought out quite a stock of goods to furnish the hospital.

"I find among the surgeons who have just returned from furloughs, an increase of praise of the Commission. They say, as a general thing, that while they were at home, the president of this or that society came to them, and asked if the goods sent to this Commission actually did as much good as was represented; and they had taken great pains to give the necessary explanations. One of them told me that while he was at home a president of a Soldier's Aid Society came to him and said that their society had a package and a large box to send to the soldiers, and wanted to know what his opinion was as to the best place to send it. She said, 'some of our members say they will leave the society if the goods are sent to the Sanitary Commission.'

"This surgeon labored nearly all day to set them right. He believed that the goods were sent to the Commission, and that the society still continues in its work of benevolence through the same channel."

OHIO AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

Mr. Keck, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following as a substitute for Mr. Reber's resolution of thanks to the ladies of Ohio for their patriotic services :

"*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That we recognize with great satisfaction and pride the unfaltering interest taken by the people of the State in the noble work of contributing to the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of our army, and acknowledge with gratitude the munificent benevolence of those who have thus remembered the brave men who have consecrated themselves to the work of defending our imperilled country.

"We also gratefully recognize and commend the United States Sanitary Commission and its branches, through whose wide, efficient, and economical agency so large a proportion of the contributions of the State have been distributed to our soldiers; and also the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies, and similar organizations, which have so generously co-operated in this great work"

Bill passed.

A TRIP TO CHATTANOOGA.

How I happened to go to Chattanooga was in this wise: One day there came into camp the Rev. Thomas B. Fox, whom Governor Andrew had sent as a special agent to see Massachusetts regiments and Massachusetts soldiers in hospital, in this division.

The agent kindly asked me to accompany him to Chattanooga, and addressed a request to that effect to our corps commander, which was agreed to.

Mr. Fox and myself tried to go on Tuesday, Dec. 29, but the train did not stop; but we succeeded on Wednesday. The train stops at Decherd for dinner. If anybody invites you to do so, don't you do it. Be warned in time. On the train, the civilian conductor examines your transportation paper, and the military one your military pass. The civil was not military, but the military man was civil. Nevertheless, he insisted on keeping my pass, because he argued that it was not good as far as Stevenson, on the ground that it covered ten miles beyond! I afterwards recovered it, however, by arguments effective and honest but potent. Mr. Fox had no trouble, for he was loaded with all manner of authority from Gen. Grant and a crowd of others.

It was after dark when Stevenson was reached, and it was raining. No passenger car runs further, and one hunts around until he guesses which baggage car (not of the train just arrived) is likely to go. We luckily discovered, at the last moment, the right car. Ten miles on is Bridgeport—a town without a house in it. Darkness, rain, and mud were uncomfortable to total strangers. But we found the SANITARY COMMISSION, God bless it! It was in tents. But what a change! Out of the cold and driving storm, into warm quarters, with a cup of excellent tea speedily made for the writer's racking headache—excellent blankets to sleep in, on a hay-stuffed bed, and with good Dr. Coates as the presiding genius. And other travelers, and suffering soldiers—all taken care of—fed, clothed, wounds dressed, bed furnished at the Home. I tell you people at the North, pile up your supplies, give your money, strengthen the Commission every way. That Commission *saves life.*

From Bridgeport to Chattanooga as yet, we go by boat—the boat was not "in" the next morning, but it came late in the afternoon. It would leave in *three* hours. Transportation papers must be had; and at the office, far away from the boat, they said it would leave in *five* hours. We go, with others, to the boat; now it will leave in the night *some time.* The Sanitary has a Home there, (not the headquarters,) and we go in to wait. Before midnight we find the boat will go in the *morning.* In the various tents of the Commission are *two hundred and fifty* sheltered. The night becomes savagely cold. It is *impossible* to keep warm or sleep. In our tent are men, women, and children—white refugees from Southern tyranny included. For the fun of the thing, just fancy your correspondent chopping wood at half-past two A. M., with the thermometer down out of sight of freezing. But in the group was a pretty little

girl of two years, with parents escaping with only life, from their burning house, fired by Southern brutality.

In the morning, the boat will leave at *eleven*. So we walked back to Sanitary headquarters. It was a bitterly cold day. There is a crowd. Here, a soldier to go North, his arm is dressed, he is fed; thinly clothed—a warm woolen sack is buttoned on him, and the armless sleeve pinned over, and he goes off happy. Another is on crutches, his wound is cared for, he is supplied as the other, and is helped to the cars. Here, a lone woman, all the way from New Jersey, to find her sick husband—mild, patient, grateful, careless of fatigue, with miles yet to go, and she is sheltered, fed, and directed; a good woman, she says she has "found only Christian people all the way." A mother, who has come to see her wounded son, an officer; alas! his corpse has passed her on the road, and she is to return. And so with the multitude. But perhaps as near to the heart as anybody—a little girl of five years, who, with others, had sat in baggage cars all the cold night, (in which time three soldiers had *perished* of cold,) the managers had carelessly unfastened that car, and left it. The little girl, half frozen and crying, had come up with the others to the Sanitary. And now, warmed and fed, the child was happy, and I showed her the picture of another little girl, and we were friends, and when she left they wrapped warm things around her, and pulled socks over her shoes, and a strong helper carried her in his arms to the train. The Sanitary cared for the little girl; it was somebody's child; *mine* of the same age might have been there, and so for the love of a blue-eyed girl at home, I owe just as much debt as anybody, and say again, God bless the Sanitary!

On the boat. It is to leave at twelve. To leave at two. To leave at five. It *did* leave at *seven*. It was the Paint-Rock, a funny old two-story barn with a wheezy tea-kettle arrangement for running it. The weather was horribly cold. The "cabin" was a canvas box on the top of the aforesaid barn. A few inches of it was warmed by an ancient cooking-stove, one door of which had departed. It is sixty-two miles to Chattanooga by river, it is twenty-eight by rail.

On the boat were some delegates of the Christian Commission. They had some private stores of food; but they, in the dearth, shared with all. They made tea—they furnished bread. They did all the good possible. The passengers became their warm friends, from the conduct of these delegates, which was truly Christian. I was glad to meet Rev. Calvin Holman, of New Hampshire—an experienced, judicious, and able minister, and it was pleasant to pass much of the night together in common topics. The Commission opened its doors here to shelter to its utmost capacity; and there the soldier's wife found friends to help her to her husband.

Pulled up the rapids by ropes, or worked up by steam far higher than the Government allowance of pressure; sighting bold Lookout, the scene of gallant combat, around its base—and so, about 9 P. M., we reached Chattanooga. Hospitable doors are open, and friends are found.

Now all this has a purpose. It took four days to get this short distance. Just consider that this is the main way of getting supplies here, and be *patient.—Chaplain Quint, in the Congregationalist.*

A RELIEF AGENT AND HIS MULES "BRINGING UP THE REAR."

One Sunday morning in October, the assistant superintendent of the Sanitary Commission Field Relief Corps, accompanied by the Relief Agent of the 6th Army Corps, was pushing a wagon load of sanitary supplies from Alexandria to the front. His thoughts, bent on the pleasant business of carrying relief to the suffering, were all unmindful of dangers from guerrillas, or any such hostile folk. Suddenly a company of cavalry, drawn up in line of battle, met his eye when about five miles this side of Fairfax. Inquiring the reason, he was ordered to return, and was informed that a party of guerrillas had attacked the cavalry and killed the captain and one private. Obeying the order, he countermarched his mules and headed for Alexandria. Soon the cry of "they come" reached his ear. Vigorous were the blows which the fleet-footed mules received, as they practiced the double-quick towards the fortifications; but soon it was evident that the mules could not, with all their speed, keep up with their more noble brethren, the horses. Then there was a John Gilpin race; the cavalry lead the advance, the assistant superintendent kept the mules "well up" to proper speed, and "*ye galliant relief agent*" guarded the rear. Thus they reached Alexandria, and when next they run may we be there to tell the tale.

WHAT CAN WOMAN DO?

At a meeting of the Union League, of the women of Chester County, held on Thursday, the 23d of July, a member of the League, after making the following preliminary remarks, read, to the great satisfaction and pleasure of all present, the appeal to the women of America, which we give below.

My Friends:—I had intended this afternoon to try and answer the question now so frequently asked—What can woman do in these sad and trying times?—what can woman do to help to save the Nation? The mere fact of this question being asked is, I think, a most encouraging sign. It

shows that we are becoming awake to the great interests and duties of the hour.

The war in which we are engaged is, as you all know, not a war of arms only; it is a war of opinion also.

The force of arms may fail; "the battle is not always to the strong," but the power of right cannot fail. This power is ours. The power of principle, of virtue, of love, of religion. Who can measure its force? To increase this moral power is every woman's duty. Let us then unite to use it. Let it not lie dormant in our hearts. In this time of our country's need, let us not be found wanting. Cast aside all prejudices and selfish indulgences, and speak boldly, fearlessly out, God's holy truths. Be not deaf to the silent pleadings of the down-trodden and oppressed. "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." Buckle on the armor of truth, and with all the strength that is in you, fight with the weapons of all-conquering love the great fight.

The material support which you have given the cause has been beautiful to behold.

We ask of you still more.

We ask for all the moral support and encouragement which every true, loyal, earnest woman has it in her power to give.

For God's sake, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of your country, arouse to the call, and prove yourselves worthy of the name of women, and of Christians.

WHAT CAN WOMAN DO?—Much, every way. Each woman has her appointed work in these days, and God helping her, can nobly fulfill it. For these are strong, earnest days, and woe to the woman or man who stands idly gazing by the highway, while the chariot wheels of destiny roll on to their grand fulfillment.

The roar, and rush, and smoke of battle is around us; our first morning thoughts are high hopes this day right may have might; our latest waking prayers are for those known and unknown, whose weary heads are pillowed only on mother earth's cold breast, whose unquiet slumbers Heaven's canopies and the stars watch. But you and I sit still at home, oh! women and girls of America, under the same home roofs, beside the same sheltered hearthstones as before this "cruel war" began. To pull lint and make pillow cases is not the noblest work for us; noble, I grant you, and necessary, but not the only work. Neither are prayers all the soldiers ask for. We must, we do pray for them in an exceeding agony of supplication, asking the all-present God to care for those gone so far from our care, to shield those so fearfully exposed, to save our best and dearest.

And from our knees we must rise with new strength, and though through tears our eyes may be dim, and the lips that smile may be cold and white, we must look and speak noble words of encouragement, saying—Go, though shells fall and cannons roar. Go for God and the right. He will shelter and save though the salvation may be in another world than this, though the shelter may be a nameless grave, beside an unknown tree. We must let them go—our *fathers, husbands, brothers, lovers, sons* Does it seem too hard? Are we only weak and loving, and so leave heavier burdens to be borne by our brave defenders? Our weakness needs their strength; strengthen we then their hands by our words, and acts, and prayers.

Make a true man to feel that he is most worthy a true woman's regard when he most unselfishly forgets all but the great cause of this day and hour.

It is one man's duty to stay at home as clearly as it is another's to go forth. BOTH can do duty and march onward, conquering and to conquer. Fighting with moral as well as material weapons for God's great cause—Freedom! Does this word mean freedom for you and for me, and not for women with darker skins, but as tender hearts? Oh! women, with mothers and sisters, and children, let us not see dimly, and so lose our slain in this noble strife.

Behold the auroral lights of victory breaking over the eastern hill. Hearken, from the far Judean plains comes the voice of Him who spake as never man spake. Through and over the strife and weariness of long centuries, comes to me with its just force and strength, the ever new and all-comforting utterance–"I come to preach deliverance to the captive, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Shall you and I fail to do our part in this holy work? We will not. Sacred to us shall be our country. Sacred each soldier fighting for her. Sacred the truths for which they fight. No word, treasonable or traitorous, shall be breathed in our ears, or uttered under our roof. Let no sneers at men or measures make us forget WHY this strife rages. Destroy a seditious pamphlet. Burn a rebellious paper. Scorch with fire of eye and glance all malcontents, who cannot look beyond the narrow, paltry range of party and of self. Have no fellowship with those who are content to sit still and question the ultimate success of our arms. These are exceptional days, exceptional vices seem to rage. Let each woman show her love of loyalty, her devotion to country, her readiness to do and give all for the cause.

Are honor and honesty, purity and patriotism all to die? and we only of all nations lift no promise to the future? "To be judged by the event is the inexorable law of history."

We are living and producing events each day. Shall not each day see us with words

of mingled pathos and strength, holding up to view the noble end for which the fight is fought. *True freedom—real liberty.* For these let us live—for these be willing to die.

Then shall treason and traitors cease, and men learn to remember the meaning of their prayers, when they ask—"From all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion, good Lord, deliver us." Too many hearts never utter this petition; too many throb coldly for their country, beleagured, sore beset; too many are more ready to cavil and carp, than to do and die. Put before all such, before all you can influence, the great ends, God's designs, to work out by this purifying trial.

Our iniquities, as a nation, have been heaped up abominations; see to it that we receive not amiss the scourge our sins deserve. Dismayed, ashamed, afraid, I listen to too many who cry "peace, on good terms it may be, but in any case peace." I hear of *falling stocks* and *conscription*, and habeas corpus, till I wonder at the Divine patience. It is as if people gazed at the glimmer of a night lamp, and clamored of darkness, while all about the glad, great sunshine lay without. I hear women, otherwise good and earnest, say, "Perish all things, but my heart's treasures cannot go." Do we need, you and I, born to the fair heritage of this fairest land, be told the grand utterance of old, which even heathens acted on, "Blessed and glorious is it to die for one's country." Our country needs us—let us not fail it. From farm house and school room, from city home and village streets, let us rise mightily. We do not know our influence. Had Eve not been dearer than God, would Adam have broken the primal law? Use nobly the God-given power. Give moral aid, and material help and prayers, and cries to Heaven, and soon our banners shall wave in victorious breezes. Send forth, if need be, each woman of us all our best and dearest, though our heart's blood go with them. They may come back to us triumphant, jubilant, laurel-crowned. Or from fever ward, and weary hospital bed, they, returning, totter into our outstretched arms. Or never more may they come again. Hope may fail, expectation die, and suspense end. The familiar foot-fall, the warm hand-clasp, the loving eyes, the gentle speech are gone. And to us left behind no flower is ever fragrant again, no sunset ever glorious, no moonlight soft. But

"Death's consummation crowns completed life."

The sun shines, and the rain falls on the nameless grave. God's help is for all our deeds. The outstretched arms from the cross embrace us all. Very near are the surging waves of the dark river. On the other side is only light. I hear the divine melody of the voice that calls—"Come unto me all ye that are weary, and I will give you rest." Rest. Only to be won after strife for God's great purposes. Put a living action into this million-fold movement, this tossing sea of starry flags. "The day is darkest before the dawn." That morning dawns when wars and battles over, the perfect Light of Peace shall flood the world immortal.

"We women wait, and watch, and pray,
With thrilling pulse from day to day,
Then fold our useless hands and say;
One way is left—to aid, to speak
The word that flushes all the cheek.

Our God is here; his finger shines
Along our land in fiery lines;
Arise! obey the stern command,
Come forth! 'tis Freedom bids you stand,
Go, strike for God and Fatherland."

When this League was organized in April, 1863, a paper was read by Mrs. Heister explanatory of its objects, the foremost amongst which was, of course, the use of such influence as women possess for the diffusion and encouragement amongst all classes of the community of a sound and healthy feeling of attachment to the Government and the laws. And she added:

"And lastly, we propose to give our unceasing efforts for the support, encouragement, and comfort of our soldiers in the field and in the hospital. As the President of the Sanitary Commission said in one of his addresses, 'So long as the men fight, the women must knit and sew.'

"Your sympathy has ever been, and still is I am sure, with our sick and wounded soldiers; for who are these soldiers but our nearest and dearest kindred and friends? The tokens of affection which we send to them not only evince our sympathy in their sufferings and privations, but give to them great moral support and encouragements, and their claims to our continued efforts in their behalf will not, cannot, must not cease, until this fearful rebellion be crushed, and peace proclaimed.

RELIEF WORK UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE.

Mr. John Stevens, Jr., one of our Relief Agents in the Southwest, writes from New Iberia:

I have given out the larger portion of my stock, and am now packed up ready to leave for Franklin to-morrow, if possible. I have determined to make this move after consultation with those who know best here. There will be no need of me for a few days at least, and I can easily return if necessary. Nearly all the sick have already been sent from the general hospital. When the vegetables and pickles arrive I wish you would advise me, for they are needed here, although there is plenty of fresh meat.

On Christmas, at the invitation of Dr. Sanger

and Col. Molyneux, I went out with a flag of truce for the exchange of prisoners, taking supplies for the sick. An ambulance for chests, and a horse was placed at my disposal. There was quite a large party of officers, making it very agreeable. We took out some two hundred and fifty rebels, and received seven hundred of our own men. They were a most forlorn looking set of men. Covered with rags and dirt, many of them foot-sore and worn out by the long march, hardly one with a whole pair of shoes, they had not even their nakedness covered. I had punch, coffee, and beef stock made for the sick, who took it greedily and seemed refreshed. The rebel officers thought the Sanitary Commission was "quite an institution;" said they had heard of it before.

NOTES ON NURSING.

NOISE.

Every thing you do in a patient's room, after he is "put up" for the night, increases tenfold the risk of his having a bad night. But, if you rouse him up after he has fallen asleep, you do not risk, you secure him a bad night.

One hint I would give to all who attend or visit the sick, to all who have to pronounce an opinion on sickness or its progress. Come back and look at your patient *after* he has had an hour's animated conversation with you. It is the best test of his real state we know. But never pronounce upon him from merely seeing what he does, or how he looks, during such a conversation. Learn also carefully and exactly, if you can, how he passed the night after it.

People rarely, if ever, faint while making an exertion. It is after it is over. Indeed, almost every effect of over-exertion appears after, not during such exertion. It is the highest folly to judge of the sick, as is so often done, when you see them merely during a period of excitement. People have very often died of that which, it has been proclaimed at the time, has "done them no harm."

As an old experienced nurse, I do most earnestly deprecate all such careless words. I have known patients delirious all night, after seeing a visitor who called them "better," thought they "only wanted a little amusement," and who came again, saying, "I hope you were not the worse for my visit," neither waiting for an answer nor even looking at the case. No real patient will ever say, "Yes, but I was a great deal the worse."

It is not, however, either death or delirium of which, in these cases, there is most danger to the patient. Unperceived consequences are far more likely to ensue. *You* will have impunity—the poor patient will *not*. That is, the patient will suffer, although neither he nor the inflicter of the injury will attribute it to its real cause. It will not be directly traceable, except by a careful observant nurse. The patient will often not even mention what has done him most harm.

Remember never to lean against. sit upon, or unnecessarily shake, or even touch the bed in which a patient lies. This is invariably a painful annoyance. If you shake the chair on which he sits, he has a point by which to steady himself, in his feet. But on a bed or sofa, he is entirely at your mercy. and he feels every jar you give him all through him.

In all that we have said, both here and elsewhere, let it be distinctly understood that we are not speaking of hypochondriacs. To distinguish between real and fancied disease forms an important branch of the education of a nurse. To manage fancy patients forms an important branch of her duties. But the nursing which real and that which fancied patients require is of different, or rather of opposite, character. And the latter will not be spoken of here. Indeed, many of the symptoms which are here mentioned are those which distinguish real from fancied disease.

It is true that hypochondriacs very often do that behind a nurse's back which they would not do before her face. Many such I have had as patients who scarcely ate any thing at their regular meals; but if you concealed food for them in a drawer, they would take it at night or in secret. But this is from quite a different motive. They do it from the wish to conceal. Whereas the real patient will often boast to his nurse or doctor, if these do not shake their heads at him, of how much he has done, or eaten, or walked.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

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The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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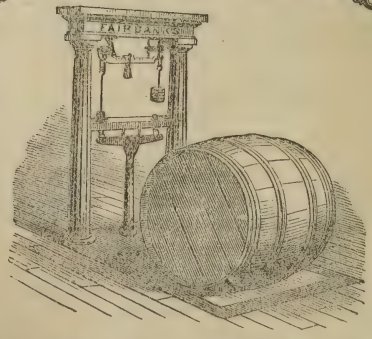
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VIII. Renan's Life of Jesus.
IX. The President's Policy.
X. Critical Notices.

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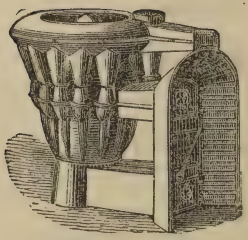
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SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

N. B.—Attention is requested to the extract from the minutes of the Standing Committee, inserted on page 280.

THE USE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

CLEVELAND, *February 3d*, 1864.

COL. CHAS. WHITTLESEY:

DEAR SIR—In your recent visit to Chattanooga, you had an opportunity of seeing something of the workings of the Sanitary Commission in the army of Gen. Grant and, from your extensive military experience, are specially qualified to judge of the value of that work to the soldier. May I ask you, therefore, and especially to answer, as far as you can conveniently do so, the following questions upon which the public desire and deserve the most ample and accurate information.

1st. Does the benevolence of the people, as expressed in the contributions of Hospital Stores, made through the Sanitary Commission, supply a real and important want in the Army?

2d. In the work done by the other Agencies of the Commission, its SOLDIERS' HOMES, its HOSPITAL CARS, its HOSPITAL DIRECTORY, &c., are they of such necessity, or mercy, as to render them worthy of approbation and support?

3d. Are the methods pursued in the business of the Commission in the Western Department, in your judgment, judicious and economical?

Yours, respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

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CLEVELAND, *February 4th*, 1864.

DOCTOR J. S. NEWBERRY, *Assistant Secretary Sanitary Commission:*

DEAR SIR—When your note of yesterday was handed me, I was engaged in writing a communication to the Executive of the State, embracing, by his request, nearly the same topics which you mention. As the whole subject directly concerns the public, I do not think there will be any objections to my giving you a transcript of a part of my remarks already written, as a reply, in part, to your inquiries. In reference to the value of what are called Sanitary Supplies, I cannot do better than to quote the words of several Surgeons, in charge of hospitals. Without having had any previous intercourse with the Medical Staff on the line from Louisville to the front, I expected to find a want of cordiality between them and the agents of States and benevolent societies, and, therefore, questioned the Surgeons and other officers of the army on the subject of these extra official efforts. Dr. McClure, in charge of Hospital No. 17, Nashville, replied as follows: "The Sanitary is indispensable to us. At Stone River we could not have done at all without the vegetables, meats, bandages, and clothing pushed forward by them."

Dr. Warriner, in charge of the Field Hospital, Bridgeport, said: "Most of the fruit sent forward is poorly put up, and so much is lost that it would be better to use it in the rear, and not burden the transportation with it while it is so difficult, or

at least, the fruit should be re-canned before it is sent to the front. Dried fruit is far preferable. Pickles and butter are greatly needed. The Sanitary supplies are indispensable to us."

Dr. N. H. Townsend, of Lorain County, Ohio, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Army, told me that, "In Gen. Banks' Department, Sanitary supplies were always ahead of the regular hospital supplies, on the field of battle. They are indispensable. Onions, pickles and butter are needed, more particularly onions. Grated horse-radish, put up in small cans, with vinegar, is a most excellent thing, and so is cheese. Clean clothing, especially underclothing, is of the highest importance, after a battle. It cannot be supplied through the regular channels. Men are brought from the field, dirty and wet; their clothes saturated with blood, which should at once be stripped, or cut off them, and thrown away. For both sick and convalescents, extra food—something more than regular hospital supplies are necessary to save life. Small wounds, gangrene, scorbutic sores appear, and the stomach becomes torpid, all for want of a proper variety of food. It is rather medicine than nutriment, and is of more consequence than either attendance or medicine."

Dr. H. S. Hewitt, Medical Director at Chattanooga, said: "Cranberries in cans, cider, dried apples and peaches, also brandy peaches, are the best kind of extra hospital supplies. Blackberry cordial is of the utmost consequence in diarrhœa. Dried blackberries are not as good. [Dr. Hoven recommends that blackberry cordial be put up in small, strong bottles of six or eight ounces, so that the soldier may carry it in his pocket.] Without the Sanitary Commission we should not be able to get stimulants sufficient for our hospital patients."

Capt. Johnson, Quartermaster of the 41st Ohio Volunteers, remarked that, "The lives of men could be saved here every day if they could have the food they crave when they are sick. It is the want of variety that causes scorbutic sores. The few Sanitary supplies we are able to get are of the utmost value to us."

Other Surgeons and officers gave similar statements, but these are the only ones whose expressions were noted in my memoranda at the time.

Dr. Harlow, Surgeon of the Officers' Hospital at Chattanooga, and Dr. Barnum, of the Hospital Train, expressed themselves in a similar manner.

Gen. Grant, Gen. Rosecrans, Gen. R. W. Johnson, and Gen. Turchin, were quite free and emphatic in expressing the same sentiments.

An officer of the 141st New York Regiment is reported to have said that they had not drawn a full vegetable ration for a year, and that scurvy was becoming common among his men.

Gen. Hooker begged of the Sanitary Agent an order for some potatoes which were at Bridgeport, as a vital necessity to check the progress of scurvy in his command. He received an order for eight barrels, and sent teams for them at once.

Gen. Turchin was still more importunate, having fifteen cases of scurvy in his brigade, and fifty more showing signs of it, as will appear by a copy of his letter, herewith.

"I saw men who were far gone with this disease begging for a raw potato, or an onion, as though they were the most precious gifts in the World. I met no officer of the Army or Surgeon who expressed themselves otherwise than in favor of the plan of extra relief for our men. Among the soldiers in camp I was frequently met with the reply, "WE GET NONE OF THESE THINGS," which is, no doubt, true. Around Chattanooga, since the battle of Chicamauga, in September, until the 15th of January, 1864, the Army, sick and well, has been short of the most necessary supplies. The sick could not be safely removed, nor could their most absolute wants be fully met for want of transportation; while those IN hospital were dying for want of extra Sanitary supplies, those who are OUT of hospital could scarcely expect luxuries to be delivered to them."

The above extract does not entirely cover the ground of your inquiries, but I will reply more fully to them in the course of a few days.

Yours, respectfully and truly,

CHAS. WHITTLESEY.

LIFE IN A HOSPITAL TRAIN.

Owing to the very great distance which the Army of the Cumberland has penetrated the country of the enemy during the present year, leaving at times its hospital, as well as commissary depots, far in the rear, the work of removing the sick and wounded has assumed proportions before unknown. Each mile of advance, while it has increased the number of patients, has also in an almost equal degree, heightened the difficulty of their removal. The distance being too great for wagon transportation, the railroads being either destroyed by the enemy on their retreat, or in so worn out a condition as to render the work of destruction unnecessary, attacks being frequent by guerrilla bands, from these and other causes, the mere feeding of the army of well men became a gigantic problem, the solution of which seemed next to impossible. The care of the sick was hardly to be added to its already overwhelming intricacies.

Still, they have not been sacrificed to the necessities of the well and the demands of military strategy and activity. Something of the same self-sacrifice and charity that have labored and lavished money for them at home, has kept company with them in their suffering and weakness. Not all has been done for them that could have been wished, but much more than might have been expected under such trying circumstances. No fame follows the exertions of the surgeon; no promotion heralds his worth to the world. But the true history of the progress of the army would crown many a surgeon, young and old, with honors equal to those of much more prominent officers.

To meet the wants of the service, in the transportation of the sick and wounded, various plans have been tried, both by the Government and the Commission. Hospital boats have been used on the Cumberland with indifferent success. Statistics show in all cases unfavorable results, and in some the mortality has been fearful, reaching ten per cent. of the total shipment in a three days' trip.

Probably most of this can be attributed to the crowded condition of the boats, the slender protection against change of temperature, and the invariable dampness of the cabin. But even under the best of circumstances, "grave cases do not do well," said a distinguished Surgeon of New York. Perhaps the constant jarring, gentle though it be, of the machinery for the length of time required by a journey on our crooked western rivers, may have much to do with it.

Then, too, the seeds of malarious disease are sown profusely, to develop in due time, and infectious diseases have a most favorable opportunity to deposit their poison. The report of Surgeon Brinton to the Surgeon General on hospital gangrene at Louisville, gives some interesting remarks on this point. He says:

"The development of this disease on the route seems to have been owing to the fact that the transportation of the wounded was effected by means of crowded and ill-ventilated boats, and that the trips by the Cumberland and Ohio Rivers frequently occupy several days. During this time these patients who had already undergone much suffering, were exposed to all the influences most apt to engender this disease. In contrast with this fact, it was found that as soon as the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was opened so that the wounded could be conveyed from city to city in one day, all importation of gangrenous sores into Louisville ceased. The development of hospital gangrene during the boat transportation is a noticeable fact, and is strikingly analagous with the same phenomena observed among our paroled wounded prisoners from Richmond, received into the Annapolis General Hospital some months since.

A Hospital Train was fitted up in this department by the Commission, in October, 1862, and although rude in its accommodations, such satisfactory results were attained, that a second and third were added, and the cooking arrangements somewhat improved. These cars, by one casualty and another, have all been rendered unsuitable, and given place to more perfect and substantial ones. At present, there are in use nine hospital cars—seven on the Chattanooga road, under the charge of Dr. Myers, Surgeon U. S. V., and two under my own immediate supervision on the Louisville Road.

The train on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, consists of one passenger, one mail, three box, and three hospital cars. The passenger coach is kept scrupulously neat, for the accommodation of patients alone, and by a special arrangement of seats, can be changed in a few moments to a bed-car, if necessary, which, however, cannot often occur, as every load of sick will contain some who would prefer to sit.

The mail car is fitted up for store room, office, and kitchen. The store room is provided with drawers for all the smaller supplies, locker for bread, refrigerator for meat, ice box, water casks, &c. Indeed, there is room for one thousand rations, beside some Sanitary stores, with space to spare.

The office is neatly fitted up. The kitchen occupies the place of the baggage-room, where may be found several disciples of the culinary

art, always busy, and although laboring under difficulty, preparing articles of diet which would do honor to many of the best arranged hospitals. This car is one of the trophies won by the immortal Mitchell in his successful dash on Huntsville, in 1862.

The two box cars, each containing twenty-four beds, arranged during a pressing necessity, last fall, are entirely unfit for the purpose, being destitute of ventilators, means of heating, and without proper springs. Any man who could ride in one of these beds safely, is able to sit up in a passenger-coach, and the removal of sick men in them would be simply murderous. I am happy to say that these cars are for the future to be used for the transportation of Sanitary and hospital supplies, in connection with the Hospital Train.

The three new hospital cars seem to meet the demand exactly, combining all possible freedom of motion, the least jar, good ventilation, a comfortable degree of warmth, and expedition in loading and unloading.

Each car contains twenty-four stretchers hung on uprights by heavy rubber bands. The stretchers can be removed from the car without disturbing the occupant, There are also seats for those who wish to sit up, and a sofa for the Surgeon or attendant, beneath which is a wardrobe and drawers for books, newspapers, &c. Opposite the sofa, is a kitchen only six feet by three, yet it contains water-tank, wash-basin, sink for washing dishes, cupboards for stores and dishes, and two large lamps heating copper-boilers, by which soup, coffee, tea, &c., may be quickly and nicely prepared.

The "bumper" is surrounded by a stiff spring, which prevents the communication of the jar when the motion is suddenly stopped or applied. The whole interior is fitted up in a style superior to any cars in use in the Northwest.

Articles of clothing are kept constantly on the train to be given to those needing them, and sanitary stores of every character are liberally supplied.

Patients speak in the highest terms, and with the deepest feeling, of the kindest and efficiency of Dr. Myers.

Trips are made tri-weekly from Bridgeport for hospital patients. Large numbers of discharged and furloughed soldiers are carried, but many more of the latter come by passenger and box cars.

On the Louisville Road the accommodations are much the same as those just mentioned. The arrangements for cooking are excellent, and much improved during the last month, a fine range having been substituted for the stove before used. The food prepared is of good quality; and besides Government rations, many delicacies—such as are comprised in the stores of the Commission—are issued in any amount required.

Since my connection with the Hospital Train, I have removed 20,472 patients, with the loss of only one man, who was removed contrary to the wish of his Surgeon, and my own judgment, at his earnest desire to "die at home."

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It now remains to give the reader some idea of the work which has been done in these trains.

On the 17th of October, 1862, the Sanitary Agent of Illinois fitted up two cars for use on the Lebanon Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, to assist in the removal of the sufferers in the battle of Perrysville. After being used a little more than one month, they were transferred to the United States Sanitary Commission, which has since that time had the superintendence of the removal of sick and wounded in this department. One of them was an old smoking and baggage car, the baggage room being fitted up with eighteen bunks, while the seats in the other part remained as before. The other was an old baggage car stolen by the rebels from the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and recaptured by the lamented General Mitchell at Huntsville. This contained the same number of bunks, the remainder of the room being taken up with stores, baggage and a box-stove. As these cars were intended for short trips only, no provision was made for cooking food beyond the boiling of a gallon or two of coffee in case of an emergency. Another baggage car was added in March.

Until the breaking of the railroad by Morgan, which occurred during the battle of Stone River, these cars were used occasionally on the Lebanon Branch, and then on the main stem to Bowling Green. The interruption of the railroad to Louisville, and the rapid accumulation of patients at Nashville, rendered transportation by the Cumberland necessary, but on the re-opening of the railroad on February 3d, 1863, river transportation was given up, and it has not been resorted to again.

My observation begins early in March. I have prepared some statistics, but many of my notes of cases and other interesting memoranda were lost in the confusion following the battle of Chicamauga. For some time after the battle, you will remember, I was on general duty in Chattanooga.

The following table will give some idea of the magnitude of the work in which I have been engaged, and in which the Sani-

tary Commission has been so much interested:

NUMBER OF SICK AND WOUNDED PASSENGERS ON THE HOSPITAL TRAIN, LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD.

	Hospital cases.	Furloughed and discharged.
Up to May 1st, 1863	5,254	1,000
May	919	unknown.
June	1,983	661
July	698	unknown.
August	256	35
September	400	43
October	1,230	593
November	1,075	630
December	65	2,015
	11,880	4,977
	4,977	
Total	16,857	

NUMBER OF SICK AND WOUNDED PASSENGERS ON THE HOSPITAL TRAIN, NASHVILLE AND CHATTANOOGA RAILROAD.

Up to May 1st, 1863	547
During May	307
June	668
August	350
September	783
October	960
Total	3,615

On Louisville and Nashville Railroad	16,857
On Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad	3,615
Total	20,472

Since October, my duties have been confined to the transportation of the sick and wounded on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The distance between the cities is 185 miles, a long and often very tedious journey for many of my patients. During the year, however, but two have died on the Hospital Train, both being cases of extreme exhaustion from chronic diarrhœa and, indeed, the friends of one man assumed the responsibility of his removal and subsequent medical treatment.

In the transportation of the sick we have not been without some extraordinary adventures. Beside sickness and wounds, we have had to contend with rebels. On April 10th, while bringing up sick from Murfreesboro' to Nashville in a hospital car attached to the passenger train, we were attacked at Antioch Station, eleven miles out, by the rebels, who had drawn the spikes from the track, and thus thrown the train off. The rebels, who were in a wood above us, began at once to fire upon the train. The bullets mostly struck the roofs of the cars and rebounded, reminding us, who were still within, of an attic room in a severe hail-storm. The small guard of forty were soon overpowered and fled, leaving sixteen of their number on the ground, either dead or severely wounded. The rebels now made a rush for the cars, and began robbing the passengers of money, watches and clothing. Several Tennesseeans made a dash at our car, shouting, "Get out of there, you d——d Yankees," and flourishing their pistols and knives in our faces, but were immediately driven off by the Eighth Texas, who formed a portion of the attacking party. These men showed the greatest consideration, handling our sick and wounded as tenderly as brothers could. They not only left me and my attendants undisturbed, but did not insist on paroling any of our patients who were with us. But several sick men, who left the cars at the first onset, were carried off with the other passengers. If our car had been separated from the others, I think that we should not have been disturbed, but it was impossible to burn the train without destroying it. None of my patients were injured. The passengers were marched away, the cars fired, the booty collected, and the plunderers off again, as if by magic, leaving myself and my attendants in possession of the field.

We immediately set to work, giving the wounded a preliminary dressing, collecting the scattered, and opening McCann's house as a hospital. We were relieved about 3 A. M., by a special train sent from Nashville for us, and brought in all of our patients not comfortably provided for, who could be moved, several bushels of mail matter, and the locomotive. At 7 A. M., I left Nashville for Louisville with a train of three hundred patients.

Early in May the remaining two old hospital cars were destroyed by accident at Brooks' Station, on the Louisville Railroad, and as but three new ones had been added, we were seriously troubled to remove men during this and the following month.

I make several extracts from my report of August 1st.

An advance of the Army of the Cumberland had been determined on, May 19th, and a general removal of the sick to the rear commenced. First, the hospitals at Murfreesboro' except the general field hospital, which was commanded by the guns of the fortification, and, in fact, almost within them, were discontinued, and the patients removed to the latter, which was filled to its utmost capacity. Then, too, the hospitals at Lavergne, Brentwood, and Franklin were broken up, the patients being removed to Nashville. The regimental hospitals of our right wing soon followed on the massing of that part of our Army at Triune.

The last of the patients were received while the attack on Franklin, by Van Dorn, was going on, resulting in the capture of the town by him, and its re-capture by our forces. We had but one hour's start of the attacking party, but were able to remove every sick and wounded man.

To add to our embarrassments, the regimental hospitals of our main body were

beginning to be broken up, commencing with those of the cavalry. The field hospital, at Murfreesboro', already overcrowded, was the only depot for the constantly accumulating mass of suffering humanity.

As our kitchen car, and most of the train had been either destroyed, or so badly injured as to be unsafe, by request of the Medical Director, Dr. Thurston, I made application to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad for additional means of transportation. Mr. Marshall, the Superintendent, was only able to give me a train of box cars. These, Dr. Thurston, with his accustomed care for the sick, declined to use, saying that, "Cars which would be uncomfortable for a well man, must be injurious to a sick one." But, after exhausting every other means, on June 6th, when a general engagement was possible any day, and probably would happen soon, a train of new freight cars were selected, beds placed in them, the patients carefully chosen by the Surgeons of the hospitals, whence they were transferred, and none sent unless they seemed able to endure the journey. Of these, the worst cases were placed in the ambulance car, with a few discharged men, who had long been awaiting transportation.

A short time previous to this, Adams' Express Company had put on a new train, for the transportation of Army freight. The cars were new and clean, had stiff India-rubber springs, rode easily, and except as to ventilation, were as comfortable as the first-class passenger coaches. Through the assistance of Col. Anderson, Military Superintendent of Railroads, we obtained the use of them. We placed straw beds in them, on which we directed the men to spread their blankets, and furnished comforts to those who had none. We added the articles of prime necessity, for an ordinary hospital ward, which, with the beds, &c., were returned in the ambulance car. We were able to move one hundred men daily.

In addition to the cooked rations, which the men brought, the store rooms of the Commission were laid under contribution, and any proper articles of diet taken which could be prepared, without fire. On our arrival at Bowling Green, hot coffee in large quantities, and toast for those who needed it, having been ordered on the previous trip, were furnished immediately, and the "twenty minutes for breakfast" spent in attending on those who needed extra care.

Unless we had cases of unusual severity I came up only to Mumfordsville. By this time the men had dined, their wounds had been dressed, and but little remained to be done beyond the common services of a nurse. If a medical officer was with us, the men were left in his charge; if not, with some attendants in whom confidence could be placed, and I returned with the down train to Nashville. Here, the necessary arrangements for the next days' trip were made by 9 P. M., between which time and midnight the men were all received, and all comfortably cared for by 3 A. M., our time for setting out.

On the first of August four additional cars were fitted up for temporary use, and on October 1st, the new hospital cars were furnished. These are built on the same plans as those used between Washington and New York, with such modifications as the tunnel and the difference in the width of track rendered necessary. The draw-bar which connects the cars together, is surrounded by a stiff, spiral spring, which prevents any sudden jerk. Double springs are under the trucks, and in addition the elliptic spring bar on the side to guard against lateral motion. Each car contains twenty-four stretchers, hung by stout rubber bands between two uprights. The stretchers are supplied with hair pillows and comforts, which can be easily renovated. They can be removed from the car, receive the patients, be re-placed, and again bear them to the hospitals when the journey is completed. The rubber bands prevent all shock and jolting, and communicate a gentle motion, which usually lulls the patient to sleep.

Perhaps I can give our friends at home the best idea of our work by describing that of a single day:

Yesterday, for instance, I arrived at Nashville on the return trip about midnight, being delayed by an accident. After "making up my train," receiving my clerk's report, and my orders for the morrow from the Medical Director, I rolled up in my blanket for a nap. But 5 A. M., soon came, and with it the yell of a regiment of veteran volunteers going home on furlough. Such a yell! Enough to raise the dead, and it did raise my "seven sleepers," who were soon at work, building fires, preparing the cars, and making breakfast for themselves and the men. In another hour the platform of the depot is covered with soldiers from the front, officers on leave of absence, citizens and camp-followers. The veterans are assigned to cars by themselves, and are jolly and noisy. The train is so long that it is divided into various parts, standing on different tracks. Ambulances loaded with the sick from the hospitals and Soldiers' Home pour in, and are stopped and examined by my steward, and if the occupants are found to be "all right," are furnished with checks, which admit them to the cars. If any doubtful cases arise, they are told to report to me at the cars, where we are busy putting in beds, assisting the feeble and disabled to seats, and looking after their baggage.

All may have gone well thus far, but at 6 o'clock the ambulance master brings us his list, which calls for 200 men, while my steward has given out but 180 checks. Some Jehu of a driver, partaking of the nature of the beast he lashes, has managed to deposit his load of men at the wrong platform. Two of us at once push through the crowd, inquiring of every soldier, "Where did you come from?" "Where are you going?" "Let me see your papers." The soldiers think it none of our business, and, very naturally, answer with emphatic curses. We secure, however, perhaps, a dozen of the twenty missing men.

The ticket office is now opened, and there is a great rush for tickets. About 200 furloughed men are marched down from the "Home" and hospitals, the guard clearing the way for them, and they are soon comfortably seated. As the passenger coaches will accommodate but 400 of the 600 waiting for a chance, the pressure for admission is tremendous. The papers of military men are examined, and they pass in. A sutler, who will take no refusal from the agent to sell a citizen a ticket, makes an attempt to dodge in, but is met with cold steel; while an old man, who is carrying home the remains of his son who has died in hospital, is told, "You can't get on the train, *if I see you.*" And yet the good old man is found at night safe at Louisville. The sharpest eyes will wink.

Only three minutes to seven. Nearly all the blue coats are aboard. My missing eight stragglers are found, helpless as lost children, in some out-of-the-way corner, and put on just as we leave.

Most of the men have had breakfast. The rest are provided with coffee, toast, crackers and cheese. Then, there are patients to examine and to prescribe for, wounds to dress, questions to answer, transportation to manage, &c., &c. This takes up the first three hours, till we arrive at Bowling Green. Here we are met by inevitable boys, with their white oak pies and unsavory chicken, with which they attempt to supply the men. My diarrhœa patients seem to have an unnatural craving for the wretched stuff. The boys are ordered off, but *will* return. I tell the veterans in cars ahead to confiscate any thing that attempts to pass. The pie-boys do not take the hint, are too venturesome, and so lose all in the handsome charge of the ready veterans. On one occasion they actually bagged a darkey, with his pies, who was last heard of somewhere in Ohio, stoutly asserting that he was "'fisticated by the sojers."

Each man is looked to hourly. As dinner-time approaches, bread is cut and buttered, meat sliced, pickles and apples got out, and, from the large tank of boiling water, tea and soup are prepared by the barrel. Each man is furnished with plate, cup, and spoon, the solid food is distributed, and the moment the train stops the tea and soup are served out, followed, perhaps, by ale and fruit. Those who need special diet are carefully attended to.

The furloughed men in the passenger train are next looked after and fed. Their destination is ascertained, and ambulances telegraphed for to carry those who wish to go on without stopping, to the several railroad depots in the city, New Albany, and Jeffersonville. Those too ill to travel further will be sent to hospital, while the others will be directed to the Soldiers' Home.

When we arrive at Louisville, about 5 o'clock, those of my patients able to walk proceed at once to the ambulances. The sickest and disabled are placed on handcarts and rolled to the front of the depot, and we see them all safely delivered at their several points of destination.

When the cars are washed, stores obtained for to-morrow's trip, and report made to the Medical Director's Office, we may consider our day's work done.—*Letters from Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in Charge.*

THE COMMISSION IN TENNESSEE.

OFFICE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
NASHVILLE, *January* 30, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,
Secretary Western Department,
U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville:

DEAR SIR—The opening of the railroad to Chattanooga has enabled us to forward an increased supply of stores. Not less than ten car loads have been sent to Chattanooga since the 15th of this month.

After receiving here those most urgently needed, and securing for them transportation, I obtained from the authorities a promise that two car loads should be promptly forwarded to Huntsville, Ala., or to such other point on the line of the road as they were found to be most needed at. Having made this arrangement, leaving the cars to be loaded, and forwarded in charge of Mr. Tone. I preceded them, Jan. 18th, that I might learn, by inspection so far as possible of the 15th Army Corps, where they were most needed, and secure store room and quarters.

I reached Scottsboro' the next day; called at Headquarters and saw Surgeon Chas. McMillen, Medical Director of the corps. He informed me that there were but few sick in the command; that at that post there was no general hospital; that he had a few goods from the Agent of the Western Sanitary Commission, and he advised me that I should find ours most needed at

Huntsville. These facts I learned in a few moments conversation, and went on in the same train some fifty miles to Flint River or Brownsboro' the then termination of the railroad, the bridge over the river not being completed. Brownsville is twelve miles by wagon road from Huntsville, which place I reached that evening.

The next day I called at the office of Dr. John Moore, Medical Director of the Department of the Tennessee, who was absent, but in his place found Asst.-Surgeon D. L. Huntington, U. S. A. After mutual consultation, and learning that a general or post hospital was established, and that Huntsville would be for the present a central point, and that the opening of a store room by the Commission was desirable, I addressed him the following letter:

U. S. Sanitary Commission Branch Office,
Huntsville, *January* 20, 1864.

D. L. Huntington, *Surgeon U. S. A.,*
Assistant Medical Director, Depart. of the Tennessee:

Dear Sir—I respectfully ask that a suitable store room and a room for quarters for two Agents, be assigned to the U. S. Sanitary Commission; and that transportation be furnished for two car loads of stores from Brownsboro' to Nashville.

Very respectfully,
Your obd't servant,
A. N. Read.

The letter was endorsed as follows:

Headquarters Department of Tennessee,
Medical Director's Office,
Huntsville, *January* 20, 1864.

Approved, and respectfully forwarded to Maj. R. W. Sawyer, A. A. G. Dept. Tennessee, recommending that the within request be granted, as being subservient in the highest degree to the interest of the troops.

By order Medical Director, Dept. Tennessee.
D. L. Huntington,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.

This request was promptly granted by Major Sawyer, who gave me promise of all needed assistance, and remarked that if it was necessary, the Headquarters' train should be sent for the goods.

I obtained the next day a very eligible store room, and connected with it were ample quarters, and then telegraphed Sanitary Commission, Nashville:

"Have obtained store room, quarters, and transportation from Brownsboro' to Huntsville. Send on the two car loads."

Also, to Mr. Tone, care of Surgeon McMillen, Scottsboro':

"Bring your goods to Huntsville. Telegraph Col. Bingham, Chief Q. M., when they will arrive at Brownsboro', and ask him that teams be sent to take them forward to Huntsville."

These arrangements being completed, Surgeon Huntington very kindly gave me access to the weekly reports of the Surgeons in the command, and from them I obtained the following statement, which shows that the command is in good condition, and that, after making all due allowance for the fact that previous to their march to the relief of the Army of the Cumberland all the sick had been left, an unusual degree of health prevails at this time.

* * * * *

[The ratio of sickness yielded by the figures furnished at this point in the report is a little over *four* per cent. of the entire command.]

On January 2d there were sick in hospital at Memphis, 1,657. During the week previous, 11 deaths.

Gen. Crook's cavalry command, 2d Division, was also stationed here, and I visited each regiment in company with the most excellent Medical Director of the Division, M. C. Cuykendoll.

The 92d Illinois Mounted Infantry, —— strong, had sent only seven to general hospital during the last six months, and had but two sick with the regiment, and no deaths from sickness. This is unprecedented good health. This regiment has been moving most of the time, and has been engaged in frequent skirmishes with the enemy.

The Surgeon of the 80th Ohio, E. P. Bird, reports present strength ——; have no hospital tent, and six men in quarters who ought to be in hospital.

In the 15th Iowa we saw some engaged in policing and beautifying their camp—others playing ball. Of the first party, a company were grubbing a large green oak stump of formidable dimensions, as it marred the beauty of their camp street. The regiment have had no issue of vegetables since July, and have obtained very little by foraging.

They obtained a few, and a few socks from the Sanitary Commission. They have no marked cases of scurvy, are well clothed, lost about seventy in the battle of Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge.

I would make no further report of regiments, only stating that I visited all in the command stationed near Huntsville, and instead, submit the following report of the Medical Director, kindly furnished for my use:

Headquarters Second Division Cavalry,
Medical Director's Office,
Huntsville, Ala., *January* 21.

Dr. Read, *Sanitary Inspector,*
Army of the Cumberland:

Sir—As you requested, I herewith transmit you a statement of the sanitary condition of the 2d Division Cavalry, commanded by Brig.-General Geo. Crook, and consisting of the following regiments of cavalry, to wit: 4th United States, 4th

Michigan, 5th Iowa, 7th Pennsylvania, 3d Indiana, 1st, 3d, 4th and 10th Ohio, and 2d Kentucky; and the following regiments of mounted infantry, to wit: 17th and 72d Indiana, 92d, 98th and 123d Illinois, and the Chicago Board of Trade.

The average strength of the command from the 1st of August, until the 31st of December, 1863, inclusive, in the field, was about —— men, and the average number of sick report daily was ——, many of whom remained off duty but one or two days. (Omitted figures yield less than 2 per cent. sickness.)

There have been ninety-three sent to general hospital, and thirteen deaths.

At the present time the command is separated, part in East and part in West Tennessee, and another portion near this place, hence I am unable to give report in full. I have the date from about one-half of the command, and it shows a sick list of less than twenty at the present time.

This statement does not include the casualties occurring in battle, or by accident, but from disease alone.

Very respectfully,

M. C. Cuykendoll,

Medical Director, 2d Division Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland.

Much of this good condition is undoubtedly due to the faithful and judicious labors of the Medical Director and the other medical officers in the command.

All seemed to be working in harmony, and with a single eye to the good of the whole.

My next visit was to the post hospital, which is a very large three-story brick building, in the city, known as the Calhoun House, (had been formerly used by the rebels,) Surgeon Dudley Rodgers of the 59th Indiana in charge.

The house is a magnificent structure, rooms large and airy. It contained about twenty-five patients; these had comfortable beds, but their diet was bad. I saw their supper, which consisted *only* of bread made of corn meal and water, fried salt pork, and coffee without milk. Some of these patients were very sick. I remarked to one of the patients, "you have good quarters," "yes," he replied, "but that is all." I saw in the store room half a sheep, and at times they have fresh beef. I may add here, that on the arrival of our stores, we gave them a liberal supply, which must have been essential to the recovery of some of them.

The next day I called on Surgeon J. S. Prout, Medical Director of the 3d Division, 15th Army Corps, and with him visited the regiments of that command, first obtaining from him the following statement. Strength of command ——. On the 5th of January —— remained unfit for duty; —— were reported unfit for duty the following week, and 181 were returned to duty. Remaining unfit for duty, January 16, ——. (Three and a half per cent. from sickness.) During this week there were issued, 7,398 pounds of fresh beef, about one and a half rations, and 3,428 pounds of potatoes, being about three-fourths ration.

1st brigade.

Regiment.	Beef, lbs.	Potatoes.
59th Indiana	1,000	....
48th "	550	441
4th Minnesota	715	....
18th Wisconsin	598	1,200
63d Illinois	....	....

The 18th Wisconsin was doing provost duty, and probably was the first to apply.

2d brigade.

The 19th Iowa and 80th Ohio, 1,950 rations of beef, no potatoes, and no potatoes or beef reported by other regiments.

3d brigade.

Regiment.	Beef.	Potatoes.
5th Iowa	993	750
10th "	600	800
25th Missouri	692	237
93d Illinois	500	....

From the Batteries and Pioneer Corps no reports. I found very few sick, with the regiments, and notified each Surgeon in charge that we had opened a store room, and that they could have any goods we had, by sending for them. All said they wanted them, and would send promptly.

Mr. Tone coming with the goods, I returned to Brownsboro' on the 25th, and found there the 10th Missouri and 56th Illinois; these were in good condition, as the others, and had received during the week, one ration of potatoes and two of beef. All were well clothed, huts good, camps well policed, the only thing that seemed to be deficient, was the ditching, but as the weather was dry the camps were not muddy.

I think the order of Surgeon Moore that all in the department should report weekly the issues of fresh beef and potatoes, must result in good; as it can be seen at once who are not supplied; and by bringing it weekly before each officer, will prompt them to make every effort to obtain them. On my return to Stevenson, I found the Alabama House had been taken possession of by the Government, and was to be used for a Soldiers' Home, under charge of Government officers. I have since requested Mr. Sutliffe to remove four tents from Bridgeport there, I notified him that we will send him stores, so that he can aid the officers as they may desire.

At Stevenson there have been many instances of suffering both by soldiers and by refugees. The trains make irregular connections, those coming in from Huntsville (to which place they now run,) not con-

necting for many hours, with the Nashville and Chattanooga trains, and these trains are often so full, that further delay is unavoidable.

The night of the 25th was clear but cold. As most of our company could not find beds and food, one of them, Samuel McClellan, was making his way to a little fire he saw by the road-side, that he might make a cup of coffee; on his way, he found by the side of the railroad track, the body of a child, about eleven years old. By the fire sat an old lady, her head as white as cotton, with two children of her niece's in charge. The dead child had been one of their number; the old lady and children had been fed by the soldiers, and she was doing the best she could to live through the night, with her children around her little fire. She was put under shelter, and a better fire made for her, but no bed could be obtained. She was from Chattanooga, endeavoring to reach her brother in Columbus, Kentucky. She was not a soldier, and I only refer to the incident to show the want of bettter accommodations, for those who are compelled to stop there. Many a soldier has been compelled to walk all night, without food or fire. I trust the Alabama House will soon be open where they can find both.

I expect to make a personal inspection of the hospitals and their wants, at Murfreesboro', Tullahoma, Stevenson, and Bridgeport the first of next month.

You will see that the condition of this corps is much better than those in Chattanooga. On their return from Knoxville, they were poorly clad, but on reaching Bridgeport clothing was soon furnished, and they are now well supplied.

I feel it to be my imperative duty to ask more urgently than ever before, for all the vegetables that can be furnished, knowing that they are now necessary not only for the *strength* of our soldiers, but are *life* to them.

A command just sent back to Bridgeport, have sent over one hundred sick to the general hospital in charge of Dr. Varian, every one of whom had marked indications of the scurvy. I have persuaded several Surgeons to direct their patients to eat the potatoes raw, sliced thin, with vinegar. They inform me that they are relished in that form. Can they not be pickled in vinegar, and thus transportation economized, while their utility is increased tenfold, and also preserved to such time as they cannot be furnished fresh? So important has the subject appeared to me, that I have addressed the following letter, to several of the medical officers of this army, whom I chanced to meet in Nashville. I was particularly fortunate in meeting with Surgeon R. H. Coolidge, Medical Inspector U. S. A., just returning from an inspection of the troops in Knoxville and vicinity.

I would ask special attention to the statements of Drs. Phelps and Perkins, Both have been long in the field and have been Medical Directors of the 20th and 4th Army Corps.

I have sent the same note of inquiry to Dr. Vollum, Medical Inspector of the Army of the Cumberland, and to Dr. G. Perin, Medical Director. I will forward to you their answers as soon as received. But there can be but one opinion in regard to the danger to our Army from scurvy, and of the necessity of prompt action by all, to furnish means for its prevention and cure. This induced me to write the following letter of inquiry:

NASHVILLE, *January* 31, 1864.

DEAR SIR—For want of sufficient variety of food, and of fresh vegetables, scurvy is beginning to appear in this army.

I have reason to believe, both from the testimony of sea captains and my own observation, that potatoes pickled in vinegar, or put up in molasses, as for sea voyages, to be eaten raw, are much better for the cure or prevention of scurvy then when cooked.

Please inform me if in your opinion the Commission should furnish the potatoes in these forms, and if there is a necessity of an increased supply of vegetables.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

A. N. READ.

To this letter I have received the following replies:

NASHVILLE, *January* 31, 1864.

DOCTOR—I am on my return to Washington from an inspection of the hospitals and troops at and near Knoxville, and would represent to you that, in my opinion, the Sanitary Commission can do a great deal of good, by sending to that point *anti-scorbutics* and *garden seeds.*

The troops are comparatively healthy, but they have been deprived of vegetables so long, that there is danger of scurvy; indeed, some of the premonitory signs of that disease are now apparent.

In reply to your note of inquiry, I have to state, that raw potatoes, sliced and pickled, or preserved in molasses, are an excellent anti-scorbutic. Indeed, when I have the fresh potato and can have it cooked, I prefer using it raw, sliced and dressed as salad, for my scorbutic patients.

I have advised the Medical Director at Knoxville to have one garden made for the hospitals in that city, which now accommodates 2,500 patients. I have also advised that gardens be made for the troops, now in winter quarters in the vicinity of Knoxville, even though there be no possibility of the troops remaining long enough to

reap the fruit of their labor further than relates to early greens, such as lettuce, turnip-tops, spinach, radishes, mustard, &c.

The seeds most needed are lettuce, beets, turnips, tomatoes, radishes, spinach, mustard, pea, early cabbage, onion sets, corn, potatoes, and a general supply are wanted.

While the Tennessee River continues low, Sanitary stores and especially anti-scorbutics should be sent at intervals of two or three days, in say not to exceed thirty medium sized packages, so that the boats may take them without detriment to other demands of the service.

I think much good would result if an arrangement were made between the Sanitary Commission and Medical Director Hewitt, at Knoxville, for the services of Mr. Culbertson as Superintendent of the Hospital Garden. He is now at Knoxville in the employment of the Commission, is willing to do the work, and is represented to me as having the requisite experience and knowledge.

Very respect., your obed't servant,

R. H. Coolidge,
Medical Inspector U. S. A.

Headquarters Department of Cumberland,
Assistant Medical Director's Office,
January 22, 1864.

Dr. Read—Dear Sir—At your request I would respectfully report, that I have not had any personal opportunity to learn the effect of the use of the potato prepared as you suggest, in cases of scurvy and where a marked tendency to this disease exists. The chemical constituents of the potato, combined with vinegar, furnish, in my opinion, one of the very best dietetics I know of, both for the arrest and cure of scorbutus. In the French Army, and during the insurrections in Sicily, I had frequent opportunity to witness the good effect of the potato peeled and sliced thin, then dressed with vinegar, salt, pepper, &c., as the green cucumber is usually prepared for table use. In both of these campaigns, there was no other treatment rendered which was certain to prevent, and as prompt to cure scurvy.

I am sir, very respectfully, yours,

M. Clendennin,
Surgeon U. S. V.,
Asst. Med. Director, Dept. of Cumberland.

The troops above referred to have been so long deprived of an adequate supply of fresh vegetables, that, unless the deficiency be speedily supplied, scurvy to such an extent as to materially impair their efficiency during the spring campaign is inevitable. As it is impossible to supply them in sufficient quantities in the ordinary form, I would earnestly recommend the plan above referred to by Dr. Read.

J. Perkins, U. S. V.,
Medical Director, 20th Army Corps.

From what I know of the condition of the troops referred to above, I do not hesitate to recommend that potatoes, prepared as specified, be furnished the Army, as necessary to place it in condition for the coming campaign. *Fresh vegetables cannot be supplied in sufficient quantities, and the necessity of such diet is very urgent.

A. J. Phelps,
Medical Director, 4th Army Corps.

In addition to this, I would also suggest that the Commission furnish, say one hundred barrels of the meal of parched corn.

Take common corn, brown it in the large cylinders used for browning coffee, until it is brittle, then grind it. I believe from my own observation of the Confederate soldiers, and of the negroes, who use corn meal instead of flour, that compared with flour it is anti-scorbutic.

At all events, this would make a nutritious and palatable diet, which would be sought after eagerly. I am informed by those who have tried it, that mixed with cold water it soaks soft, and is very palatable, and that with sugar, it makes a very good pudding.

Yours, very truly,

A. N. Read.

A VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Central Office of the United States Sanitary Commission is located at the old residence of John Quincy Adams, No. 244 F Street, a short distance from Willard's Hotel. One of the upper rooms of this building is occupied by that department of the Commission, known as the "Hospital Directory."

At this office four or five clerks are employed, three of whom are regularly engaged in entering the names of soldiers in large books. These names are copied from the daily reports of the hospitals in the District of Columbia, Baltimore, Chesapeake, Beaufort, Hilton Head, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and several in New Orleans, numbering in all about fifty. Each one of these books numbers about three hundred pages, New York and Pennsylvania each requiring two volumes. As there have been sick and wounded from every regiment in the Eastern Department, so each State has a record in

*The potato pickled or preserved in molasses is only intended to be used when it cannot be furnished fresh. But so difficult will it be to furnish a supply, our soldiers should be induced to eat them raw.

one or more of these books. The 69th New York Volunteers, for instance, we find by referring to the index, is on the —th page. Like every other page, it has the following printed headings, each having its proper space, and being appropriately ruled off: "Date of Admission," "Hospital," "Name," "Rank," "Company," "Died," "Discharged," "Returned to Duty," "Furloughed," "Deserted," "Transferred." For instance: Patrick Smith is received at Lincoln Hospital, November 10. The report indicates his admission at that date; so under "date of admission," is written "November 10;" under "hospital" is written "Lincoln;" under "name" is written "Smith, Patrick;" under "rank" is written "P" (for "private") and under "company" is written "F," or whatever it may be. Perhaps, in a short time a morning report from Lincoln Hospital informs the clerks that Patrick has returned to duty. His name is found, and under that heading the date is written—say December 15; or, Patrick may have received a furlough to visit his friends. Then, under "furloughed" is written "December 15." Thus it will be seen that the soldier who gets in the hospital, however rarely he may have written home, or however widely his letters may have miscarried, is almost certain to be easily traced out by any anxious friend, or relative, writing or applying to the Sanitary Commission, and answers are given free of all charge. There are, however, exceptions to this easy method of finding the soldier. It sometimes happens that, from some peculiar whim or other, the soldier does not furnish his proper name at the hospital. Others may be deliriously ill when received, and unable to give a reliable name. Some of the Germans, and, indeed Americans, have such peculiar sounding names, that they get sadly misspelled after two or three copyings, but they may be easily identified by the rank and company they were in, and by their "given" name.

We think that many in the country would be greatly astonished at the peculiarity of the names of some of our brave boys. The most remarkable one we ever saw was that of a Western soldier, who was bravely defending the old flag under the appellation of "January Blackbird." The number of names now registered upon the books at Washington alone, is about 200,000! The greater portion of these have been returned to duty or honorably discharged.

The correspondence of the Directory is one of its most interesting features. When inquiries are received asking information of soldiers whose names are not on the books of the office, a letter is addressed, in nearly every instance, to the Surgeon of the soldier's regiment, or to one of the branch offices at Louisville or Philadelphia. The method and detail with which this is done challenge our admiration, as indicating the care taken to secure the most certain information. For instance: a letter is received from Mrs. Jones, a lady in New York City, who has not heard from her son Samuel, a private in the 200th New York Volunteers, Company B, in five months. She feels an intense anxiety. She has heard of the Sanitary Commission, and writes, despondently, for information. The soldier's name does not appear on the books. The Chief Clerk writes to the Surgeon of the regiment. In a book entitled "Applications," he makes the following entry: First, the date of application; next, the name of the soldier inquired for, thus—Jones, Samuel, 200th New York Volunteers, Company B; next, the number of the application, say 2,400; next, the applicant, Mrs. Jane Jones, 274 —— Street, New York; next, thus—Wrote Surgeon of regiment, such a date; then, Mrs. Jones' letter of application is endorsed "2,400," and carefully filed away. Then, the clerk takes a blank form, the printed and written matter of which will read substantially as follows: "Information is earnestly desired regarding Samuel Jones, of the 200th New York Volunteers, Company B. When last heard from, he was with his regiment at New Orleans, La., which was five months since. His mother has great anxiety about him. Please reply upon this sheet at your earliest convenience." The sheet is registered at the top "2,400," and addressed to the Surgeon of the 200th New York Volunteers. A stamped envelope, addressed to the Hospital Directory, is enclosed. In the course of a few weeks there arrives one day, among a number of letters, a sheet headed "2,400." It is the same the clerk sent to the Surgeon of the 200th. The Surgeon has written, "Samuel Jones, of Company E, 200th New York Volunteers, of which regiment I am Surgeon in charge, was taken sick about four months since and sent to Barracks' Hospital, New Orleans, and only last week returned to duty, and is now with his regiment. Not getting letters from home, he has neglected to write, but agrees to do so right away." The clerk seeks out Application No. 2,400, that was so carefully laid away, and puts with it its duplicate number, the answer, and writes the welcome news to Mrs. Jane Jones. He then endorses the application as answered at such a date, turns to No. 2,400 in the "Application Book," and in a blank space, left for the purpose, writes the date and abstract of his reply to Mrs. Jones. When we say, in addition to this, that

the letter to Mrs. Jones is written in copying ink, and afterwards copied into a book, the reader will see the vast amount of care and labor bestowed upon this important branch of the Hospital Directory.

We have merely supposed a case, but it is intended as an easily understood illustration of the manner in which every letter of that class is attended to. It is true that sad news is received sometimes, which it is not pleasant to communicate directly to the anxious relatives; but we feel convinced, from the manifest interest in this department, that sorrowful things would be as gently imparted as possible, and with a sympathetic heart for the mourning mother, or brother, or sister, to whom the letter might be written.

When the Surgeon writes with startling brevity: "John, of whom you inquire, was killed at Chickamauga, September 20, and afterwards buried on the field;" or, "George, of whom you desire information, was severely wounded on the 2d July at Gettysburg, and died on the 8th of that month in regimental hospital," it is very sad to re-write these facts to the widowed mother, or the only brother and sister, whose hope has been alive at all times, though only upheld by uncertainty.

But there are other letters than these that are painful to write; for example, "Private Jacob ——, of the —th Maine Volunteers, Company K, deserted from this regiment on the 10th of November, and has not since been heard from." The clerk tells us that he had rather write to such a man's friends that he had died of the most lingering and painful disease than to send them *such* a record. Another sad case is such as this, and not unfrequently, we understand: "Henry ——, of the —th Iowa Volunteers, was last seen in the engagement of ————, and, as his body was not found, is supposed to have been taken prisoner by the rebels."

But we were glad to learn that whatever satisfaction there may be in allaying the anxieties and fears of friends with even the worst tidings —giving them gloomy certainties such as we have noted—it is much oftener the pleasing task of the clerk to write such a letter as this: "Your son is well and on duty with his regiment, as late as two weeks since. A letter addressed ————, will be quite certain to reach him;" or this: "It affords me pleasure to inform you that your brother, though severely wounded, as you had heard, at the battle of Chickamauga, is slowly recovering at 11th Corps Hospital." We saw some of the letters received, and were permitted to take a few notes. A letter from Yorkshire, England, commences its address with "My Lord," desiring news of John C——, who had not been heard of for fifteen months. He was answered that John C—— had been in an hospital in Arkansas, but was well and again with his regiment.

A lady in Connecticut, after making an inquiry, writes: "A few days ago a poor woman told me these things about her son, saying she never expected to hear from him again—supposing he was dead. She was told about the Sanitary Commission—how they so often gave the information desired—and I offered to write for her, and see if any thing reliable could be obtained from such limited knowledge of facts." The son was found in a Southern hospital, where he had been for some time, but expected to be discharged soon. Upon communicating the facts to the lady who wrote for the information, another letter was received from her, which is *so good* and so cheering to every worker in the Commission that we gladly avail ourselves of the permission to make the following extract: "I have not yet seen ———'s mother, but will venture to make immediate return of *thanks* in her behalf for the large benefit she has received through your instrumentality, Had I a friend in such a case I should consider a full expression of my gratitude impossible; or, that my best efforts in behalf of such an organization, that could afford such relief, could never compensate for value received. I confess that, with all my faith in the Commission, I am surprised and no less gratified at the success of your investigation, because of the meagerness of the facts I sent you. As long as there is need for noble effort to relieve the sorrows of our Nation's mighty heart may the Sanitary Commission be sustained and blessed."

A Minister writes: "There is a lady in my church who has several sons in the Army, one of whom has been missing since last ——. He was captured by Mosby, I think, in one of his raids. Mrs. —— is an earnest worker for the good of the soldiers, and any expense you may incur in ascertaining his whereabouts will be cheerfully met."

A letter from a lady in Liverpool, England, says: "Pardon the liberty of writing to you if you will inform me if you have any connection with the American War, as I am desirous to hear from my husband, ————, from whom I have not heard since June, 1862." A very few facts were given as a basis upon which to find him, but in a few weeks she was answered with the very gratifying information that her husband was on duty with his regiment in December last.

And so might we give many more extracts

from many other letters, all showing one natural and uniform feeling—that of anxiety. If it cost something to pay for the services of those who are discharging the duties pertaining to this great philanthropic work; if it cost something to pay for the postage stamps and stationery used, who, with only a general knowledge of the magnitude of the work, even in this department of it, who shall the money come from? Who shall put a price upon the relief to a mother's aching heart, every throb of which is an echo to her constant thought of her son, who went from her to fight his country's battles? If the Sanitary Commission relieves the pain, with certainty of his present health and honorable conduct, or with the sad, but authenticated message that he has found a soldier's grave; is there a price to be put upon it? And as to one is brought certainty, so it is brought to thousands. If, in giving to this noble cause, the people impoverish themselves, or could be said even to "feel" the amounts which, according to their various pecuniary conditions, they may contribute, there would be a plausible excuse for censuring what may be termed a mistaken philanthropy. But, thank Heaven, the National outpouring of practical philanthropy which is commanding the admiration of the whole World is not burdensome; it is the frank, outspoken, and earnest expression of the loyal people—a token of the love they bear to their country and its brave defenders. Let us hope that the United States Sanitary Commission may retain its justly earned popularity by a continuance in its present sphere of usefulness, as long as the war shall cause the necessity of its existence.—*Washington Chronicle, Feb.* 16.

LETTERS IN OUR DRAWER.

We have in our hands a number of letters and reports from various quarters, for which we cannot find space in this number, and which are, nevertheless, too interesting to be passed over without notice. Dr. Newberry writes from Louisville, (Feb. 11,) that Dr. Warriner, one of his Aids, had gone to Cincinnati to stimulate the exertions of the Branch Commission in that city, in forwarding supplies to the force which General Sherman was then collecting at Vicksburg for the expedition whose fate we are at this moment all watching with so much anxiety. The result was the preparation of one thousand packages, which were sent down the Mississippi by a steamer chartered for the purpose, and which took in additional supplies at Cairo and Louisville. Dr. Warriner went down in her, for the purpose of making a tour of inspection amongst our agencies in Mississippi. The demand for anti-scorbutics in the Western Armies was more urgent than ever, and continued, in spite of the dispatch of very large quantities by the Commission, to be far greater than the supply. But Dr. Newberry was in hopes that as soon as the weather would permit the transport of vegetables from the North, to pour in such a supply into General Grant's Army as would give scurvy its quietus. Beyond some changes in the position of our agencies in Tennessee and Kentucky, and the establishment of a new "Soldiers' Home" at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, nothing had occurred to disturb the ordinary routine of our work in that quarter. Our relations with the Christian Commission and the military authorities were perfectly harmonious.

Dr. Seymour furnishes some interesting particulars of his inspection of the troops at Knoxville. He reached that place on the 24th January, after the usual toils and perils on the road, with one hundred and eighty packages of stores, and, as usual, found them sorely needed. The Surgeons reported their patients as in "a destitute condition," and Dr. Seymour made such distributions amongst them as the emergency seemed to require or his means would permit. He has succeeded in making arrangements for transport from Chattanooga, which will keep him supplied with sixty or ninety packages a week. Of the hospitals at Knoxville, he says:

> I have made a thorough inspection of all the hospitals. My first visit was made immediately after my arrival here. I found the hospitals and men in a sad condition, with the exception of Hospital No. 1 and its branch, which was comparatively very comfortable. In the others more than half of the men were lying on the floor with nothing but blankets. The wards filthy, cooking and washing arrangements bad, and in many instances no accommodations at all for washing. Police of grounds bad. Sinks abominable, and the town generally the most filthy of any I ever had the misfortune to be in.
>
> In justice, I should say that the Surgeons in charge are not to be held accountable for the condition of their hospitals, not having been provided with the means to remedy the evil.
>
> I am happy to say a great change has taken place within a few days.
>
> Government has been able to furnish them

with many necessary articles, much needed, which, with the aid we have been able to give them in stores, the efficient efforts of the Medical Director of the department, Dr. Hewitt, and of the Post Director, Dr. Shippan, together with the united efforts of the Surgeons in charge, the hospitals are now in a very fair condition, and daily improving in every respect.

Of articles wanted, I may say every thing. Those most needed are eatables of all kinds. Vegetables, pickles, krout, fruit, crackers, delicacies, stimulants, ale, cordials, wines, (blackberry wine is much inquired for,) bandages, rollers, shirts, drawers, and socks.

The general health of the men in this department is fast improving. The last ten days has given them rest, which is what they very much needed.

The matter of hospital gardens has been engaging the attention of our laborers both East and West. With a perennial cry for vegetables coming from every camp, post and hospital at the seat of war, it has seemed to them absurd, with a teeming soil under their feet, and in one of the finest climates in the world, to be entirely dependent on the scanty contributions, which at most seasons are all that our frosty North can send. Dr. Newberry says in the letter mentioned above:

We have taken up the matter of hospital gardens with considerable energy; have sent out seeds and tools for large gardens at Murfreesboro', Tullahoma, Chattanooga and Knoxville, and shall do what is necessary to make each a success. We have been urged to this action by all the medical and military authorities, and everything indicates that our prompt intervention in the matter is called for by both our humanity and self-interest.

Dr. Page, one of our Inspectors, writes from Washington on the same subject:

I wrote you yesterday a hasty line in reference to our projected hospital garden, and enclosed a list of seed wanted to carry out the plan. By the interest of Gen. Peck, we have secured the disposal of fifty acres of good land, of proper exposure; some of the coarser implements, such as ploughs, hoes, &c., have been obtained from the service. Any amount of manure is at hand, and the transportation furnished; and the labor is secured partly by volunteers from the soldiery, and partly from detailed contrabands. An intelligent Lieutenant of the 19th Wisconsin has charge of the practical working of the farm, and there is much of emulation and intelligent zeal among the volunteer yeomen-soldiers engaged. It will teach them a lesson of the yield of this soil, and of its capabilities under our warm sun and long season, which will surprise and delight them.

I am encouraging, in every way, the disposition of our hospital surgeons, stewards, and others to establish gardens, large and small. My own little *patch* of last year and this winter seems to act as a strong stimulant. The movement will be a God-send, literally, to our troops.

* * * * * *

I hope you will express the agricultural matters by first opportunity. Perhaps, it would not be unwise to suggest to seedsmen, if they are desirous to have any untried varieties of seeds given a fair and intelligent trial in this climate, that they forward them, with the proper directions.

* * * * * *

There is more on this same subject in the report on the operations of the Commission in Tennessee, to be found elsewhere.

The want of a Soldiers' Home in Brashear City has been long felt, for the comfort and relief of soldiers passing to and fro between the Téche country and New Orleans, many of them, of course, sick, or convalescent. Mr. Abbott accordingly organized one about the middle of last December. Chaplain Barker, who is acting as our Special Relief Agent in that quarter, sends us some information as touching its condition and results. A suitable building was procured, cleaned, and fitted up with conveniences for sleeping, cocking, and subsisting the men as they came. A colored man does the cooking, a colored woman every thing else. A private of the 91st N. Y. V. acts as a guard and works as a carpenter. A Sergeant of the same regiment is the Superintendent; and the Chaplain himself is, as we have said, Special Relief Agent; or, as he calls himself, "servant of all work." In the first fortnight of January, 231 men were admitted, 671 meals and 250 lodgings furnished. The Commission had done some good work at Brashear City before this, however, as appears from the following letter to Dr. Blake, our Agent at New Orleans, written so long ago as November 23d:

BRASHEAR CITY, LA.,
November 23d, 1863.

DEAR SIR—Your prompt response to my appeal in behalf of the sick of the 91st New York Vounteers, commands my respect and gratitude. The sheets, pillow and bed ticks, and the shirts, napkins and drawers, could not, in my opinion, have been more judiciously bestowed. For example: prior to the arrival of your supply there was not a sheet, nor even a part of one in the hospital, and at the same time we had some seven cases of typhoid fever. The hospital stores were no less welcome, and all of them proved to be of the very best quality. The Sanitary Commision, through its private agents, has done, and is still doing much for the care and comfort of the sick in the loyal United States Army. It cannot be otherwise than grati-

fying to you to be the almoner of such a benevolent Commission. I feel under many obligations to you for your kindness to my patients, and shall always remember you with emotions of gratitude.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ROBERT MORRIS,
Surgeon 91st New York Volunteers.

"An Engineer Officer" on Folly Island, S.C., sends us ten dollars for the following reason:

My observation of the practical working of the Sanitary Commission has convinced me that it is in every way deserving of the aid and support of Christian men and patriots.

Inspectors of the Sanitary Commission report much to its Central Office that is "contraband," but would be most inspiriting to the people, could it be made public. For instance, a regiment of Union recruits from a camp of rebel prisoners—no matter where—has been duly visited and examined on the course of the Commission's work of Sanitary Inspection—and is reported to be among the best regiments in the national service. Its men think secession used up, and are so happy with the clean clothes and the sufficient food they get from the nation, that they are prepared to fight for the country to the death, against Secession and Rebellion.

It is interesting to note that among the first questions suggested for the consideration of the recent Sanitary Conference of Representatives of old Christian civilized powers, was this:—"If a wounded soldier seem past hope of recovery, is it, or is it not, desirable that he be killed by some humane process, so as to save him from suffering, and to economize the labors of attendants on the sick and wounded?"

Let us try to imagine a like proposition introduced at a session of the Sanitary Commission, or of some Congressional Committee!

Perhaps we Americans are not utter barbarians after all?

A FOREIGN OPINION OF THE COMMISSION.

We Americans are not yet quite rid of the habit of looking anxiously across the Atlantic for a word of approval of whatever we do, as a child watches the eye of its mother. The treatment we have received from that quarter during the last three years has been so far from sympathetic or maternal, that this feeling is fast dying out, and with it is disappearing much that has made us practically provincial and too sensitively uneasy about foreign opinion. But we still like to know that any American work is commended in England, which has found so little to commend in our sacrifices to sustain our national existence, and to oppose the lawless aggressions of a Slavery system which she forced upon us when we were her colonies, and educated us by example, argument, and invective to dislike and discourage after we had become an independent nation. It is gratifying, therefore, to find in the November number of *Good Words*, (a religious magazine of very great circulation, published in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow,) at page 814, a most eulogistic notice of the work of the Sanitary Commission.

It speaks of the Commission as "the most perfect and thorough organization which has been called forth by the needs of the times;" and proceeds to say that—

"Under its auspices the sanitary regulations of the Army are cared for, large stores and supplies kept ready and sent forward, whenever a battle is looked for, so that, in the hurry and confusion which ensues, all that the Surgeons need, and which Government cannot always supply, is at hand. Æther for amputations, bandages, lint, stimulants, and nourishment of every sort, are supplied.

"After the terrible battle of Gettysburg, when the fearful storm of shot and shell had left thousands in the field, and the Surgeons were endeavoring to do what medical skill might, to save life, one who was on the spot says he can never forget the gratitude with which they saw store-wagons of the Sanitary Commission coming up.

"'Thank God,' said the Surgeon, 'here come the Sanitary supplies; now we shall do well.'

"The Commission has its Central Office in Washington, and from thence radiate, as from a great center, streams of help and comfort, reaching the Army wherever it is doing its work, and like a good angel, watching and waiting to offer blessings. Under its direction railway ambulances have been fitted up with comfortable beds, arranged for the transportation of the sick and wounded, who are to be sent farther north; beds hung so that the motion of the carriage does not jar them. A surgeon and nurses have charge of these ambulances, and with them is connected a newly-invented cooking apparatus, in compact form, where food can be prepared, water boiled, tea or gruel made ready, or any other nourishment required. On one occasion fifty men were brought from Washington to New York, a distance of at least 300 miles. Their food being prepared entirely in this little *ex tempore* kitchen connected with the railway carriage, exhaustion was avoided, and in some cases life actually saved.*

* It is, perhaps, well to add that the "United States Sanitary Commission" is purely voluntary, organized as an aid to the Government in its immense labor. No service done by its members is other than a willing offering to the good cause, and this gives a double value to its far-reaching work. One tribute to its worth has come from a source rather unlooked for, and may be mentioned here. A letter has been sent to General Lee, (rebel commander-in-chief,) signed by twelve rebel Surgeons, now prisoners at Gettysburg, requesting the release of several Sanitary Agents taken in battle, and now in prison at Richmond. They say that the wounded of their army have received such help and comfort from the Sanitary Commission, that it seems only justice to release those who were taken while engaged in a work of mercy, and to recognize them as non-combatants.

"Another good arrangement is a Lodge, established in Washington, where the discharged soldier, waiting, perhaps, for his pay, may go and find a bed, good lodging, and meat, free of charge, before he is sent on his way. Some thousands have had help and comfort from the Sanitary Commission in this way, and been saved from temptation—perhaps, from ruin.

"In connection with the Central Office of the Commission, at Washington, a branch is established in each of our large cities, as a depot where boxes are received which come in from the country. Each little town or village has an Aid Society, as an auxiliary to the great center, where clothing is made up, and articles of various kinds contributed. Thus, as it were, a great net-work is formed over our land; or, to express it better, each little rill pours in its stream to the main ocean, the treasury, whence it flows out again, to refresh and sustain the Army.

"The boxes which arrive are opened, the contents assorted, marked with the stamp of the Commission, and re-packed, each kind of article together. Thus, a box containing five or seven hundred shirts can be sent to the field hospital, and obviate all trouble to Surgeons or Sanitary Agents on the spot. Jellies, wines, brandies, and preserved fruits, condensed milk, and many similar stores, are also sent in this way.

"In times of great emergency, the Sanitary Commission has sent out supplies to the amount of $1,000 (or £200,) a day, and it may be well to mention that California, from the shores of the Pacific, thousands of miles distant, has sent her offering of $500,000 (£100,000,) to aid in this good work; adding, that when the Commission needs further help, the same amount will be sent again. The proof thus given of the confidence felt in the work, and of the value of a plan working on so large a scale, is very encouraging.

"The Branch Office sometimes furnishes a sort of center, where soldiers in distress, on their way home, discharged, or in any need, may find a helping hand. One little incident which happened this summer will prove the truth of this statement. One sultry afternoon, just before the hour of closing the rooms, a soldier, worn with travel, and evidently troubled and in distress, came into the office. He told his story. He had, he said, a furlough; named his regiment; but on the way his transportation papers and furlough had been lost. He was a stranger, with no one to prove the truth of his story, was without money, and his home in Maine was at least 500 miles distant. What was to be done? Would the Sanitary Commission help him? Fortunately, one of the gentlemen connected with the office was present; and, although he was struck by the manner and bearing of the man, and inclined to trust him, it would not do to act without a telegram to the Medical Director, to confirm the truth of the story. In due time the wires sent back the reply, the man's statement was confirmed, his name, regiment, furlough, were all correct—he was sent on from Washington to his home, just as he said. The Sanitary Agent then offered him money for his expenses home; and added, that he must receive it as a free gift from the United States Sanitary Commission. He had been unfortunate, and had applied to those whose duty and pleasure it was to help the soldier in his time of need. He hesitated, seemed much touched with the kindness, and then with an effort—

"'God bless you, sir,' he said. 'I see now *who* sent this help to me, and if you'll allow me, sir, I'll tell you all.'

"He then said that he was in great distress, after losing his papers; he was a stranger in Philadelphia, had no money, and did not know what to do, or where to go. As he walked through the railway station he saw a roll of papers lying on the ground; on picking it up, he found it contained the furlough and transportation papers of another man, dropped, probably, just as his own had been. At first, he thought nothing of it, until the quick suggestion of the Tempter flashed upon him, 'Why not use them? I am a stranger on this railway; these papers will enable me to get home; no one knows my name, why not use them, &c.?' and some companions with him told him not to be a fool, and throw away his good luck. He hesitated, and then he said the thought of his wife came to him, and how she had told him, when he went to the War two years ago, that she gave him to his country without grudging, and that all she asked of him was not to lose his love of truth and of his duty to his God, and 'How could I go back and look into her eyes, if I had *acted* this untruth?'

"So *the good* prevailed, and what wonder that the God whose law he struggled to keep, raised up friends for him, and sent him on his way with that best of blessings—a good conscience!

"Another department of labor which should not be omitted, is the removal of the sick and wounded in hospital transports, on the Eastern and Western rivers. These transports, furnished and fitted up by the Commission with every necessary, supply important aid to the Government in its arduous work. Eight thousand wounded men were thus brought home after the terrible battles of Fair Oaks and the Peninsular battles in the summer of 1862; the details of this work may be found in a little book of much interest, made up of extracts from the letters written by nurses and surgeons engaged in it, and just given to the public.

"The Sanitary Commission does not want its martyrs, who have laid down their lives for their country as nobly and as truly as if the cannon ball or the bayonet had sent them to their last account, instead of the slower process resulting from exposure or malaria."

WESTERN SCENES.—No. 1.

A DAY AT THE ROOMS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

It is early morning—not nine o'clock—for the children are flocking in happy droves to school, making the sweet summer air resonant with their joyous treble and musical laugh, as with clustering, golden heads and interlacing white arms, they recount their varied experiences since the parting of the night before, and rapturously expatiate on the delights of a coming excursion, or promised picnic. With a

good-by kiss, we launch our own little folks, bonneted and sacqued, and ballasted with books like the rest, into the stream of childhood, that is setting in, strong and full, towards the school room, and then catch the street car, that leaves us at the rooms of the "Chicago Sanitary Commission."

But early as is our arrival, a dray is already ahead of us, unloading its big boxes, and little boxes, barrels and firkins, baskets and bundles, at the door of the Commission. The sidewalk is barricaded with the multiform packages, which John, the porter, with his inseparable truck, is endeavoring to stow away in the "Receiving Room." Here hammers, hatchets, wedges and chisels are in requisition, compelling the crammed boxes to disgorge their heterogeneous contents, which are rapidly assorted, stamped, re-packed, re-boxed and re-shipped, their stay in the room rarely exceeding a few hours.

We enter the office. Ladies are in waiting who desire information. The Aid Society in another State, of which they are officers, has raised, at a Fourth of July Festival, some six hundred dollars, and they wish to know how it shall be disposed of, so as to afford the greatest amount of relief to the sick and wounded of our Army. They are also instructed to investigate the means and method of the Commission, so as to carry conviction to a few obstinate skeptics, who persist in doubting if the Sanitary Commission, after all, be the best means of communication with the hospitals. Patiently and courteously, the history, method, means, aims and success of the Commission are lucidly explained for the hundredth time in a month, and all needed advice and instruction imparted—and the enlightened women leave.

An express messenger enters. He brings a package of money, obtains his fee, gets receipted for the package, and, without a word, departs. Next comes a budget of letters—the morning's mail. One announces the shipment of boxes of hospital stores which will arrive to-day—another scolds roundly, because a letter sent a week ago has not been answered—which *has* been answered, as the copying-book indisputably attests, but has been miscarried—a third has a bug-a-boo, mythical story to relate of surgeons and nurses in a distant hospital, with a large development of alimentiveness, who care little for their patients, being mainly occupied in "seeking what they can devour" of the hospital delicacies—a fourth pleads earnestly and eloquently that the writer may be sent as a nurse to the sad, cheerless, far away hospitals—a fifth is the agonized letter of a mother and widow, blistered with tears, begging piteously that the Commission will search out and send to her tidings of her only son,

"Scarce more than a boy with unshaven face,
Who marched away with a star on his breast,"

and has not been heard from since the battle of Grand Gulf—a sixth seeks information concerning the organization of an Aid Society in a remote town, which has just awakened to its duty—a seventh is a letter from nine-year-old little girls who have earned five dollars and wish it spent for the "poor, sick soldiers"—God bless the dear children!—an eighth begs that one of the ladies of the Commission will visit the Society in her town, and re-kindle the flagging zeal of the tired workers, who forget that our brave men stop not in their marches, and postpone not their battles and their victories, because of the heat or of weariness—a ninth announces the death of one of our heroic nurses, who was sent by the Commission a few months ago to Tennessee, a blue-eyed, broad-browed, serious-faced, comely girl, with heart loyal as steel, and soul on fire with patriotic yearning to do something for her country, and who has now given her life—and so on through a package of twenty, thirty and sometimes forty letters. Now commences the task of replying to these multitudinous epistles—a work which is interrupted every five minutes by some new comer.

A venerable, white-haired man enters. He has been here before, and we immediately recognize him. "Have you heard from my son, in Van Buren's Hospital, at Milliken's Bend?" "Not yet, sir; you know it is only nine days since I wrote to inquire for him. I will telegraph if you are not able to wait for a letter." "No matter," and the old man's lip quivers, his figure trembles visibly, his eyes fill with tears, he chokes, and can say no more. We understand it all—our heart warms towards him, for *our* father, a thousand miles away, is like him, white-haired and feeble—we raise, and offer our hand. The old man's hand closes convulsively upon it; he leans his head against the iron pillar near our desk, and his tears drip—drip—steadily on the hand he holds.

"He has only gone a little before you," we venture to say; "it is but a short distance from you to him now."

"Yes," adds the heart-broken father, "and he gave his life for a good cause—a cause worthy of it, if he had been a thousand times dearer to me than he was."

"And your boy's mother—how does she bear this grief?"

He shakes his head, and again the tears drip—drip—drip—on the hand he has still retained.

"She'll see him before I do; this will kill her."

What shall assuage the sorrow of these aged parents, bereft of the son of their old age by the cruel war which Slavery has invoked? Sympathy, tears, comfort is prof-

fered the aching heart, and after a little, the sorrowing father turns again to his desolate home.

A childish figure drags itself into the room, shuffles heavily along, sinks into a chair, and offers a letter. What ails the little fellow, whose face is so bright and beautiful, and yet so tinged with sadness? We open the letter and read. He is a message-boy from Admiral Porter's gun-boat, who is sent home with the Admiral's written request that the child be properly taken care of. Not yet thirteen years old, and yet he has been in battles, and has run the gauntlet of the Vicksburg battles, which, for ten miles, belched forth red-hot and steel-pointed shot and shell, which yet failed to sink the dauntless and invulnerable iron-clads. Fever, too much medicine, neglect and exposure, have done their worst for the little fellow, who has come North, homeless and friendless, with the left side paralyzed. He is taken to the exquisite care and tenderness of the "Soldiers' Home," for the present.

Who next? A bevy of nurses enter, bearing carpet-bags, shawls and bundles. We have telegraphed them that the hospitals at Memphis need them, and straightway they have girded themselves to the work. One is a widow, whose husband fell at Shiloh—another is the wife of a Lieutenant, at Vicksburg—a third lost her brother at Chancellorville, and almost hopes through the work of the hospital, to find the portal of the "happy land," whither he has vanished. They receive their instructions, commissions and transportation, and hasten onward. God guide you, brave, noble, little women!

Ah! that white, anxious mother's face, whiter and more anxious than ever, is again framed in the door-way. Is there, this time, no escape from it? One, two, three, four days, she has haunted these rooms, waiting the answer to a telegram dispatched to Gettysburg, where her darling only boy was wounded, ten days ago. The answer to the telegram is in our pocket—but how shall we repeat its stern speech to the white-faced and sorrow-stricken mother? We leave our desk, and involuntarily bustle about, as if in search of something, for we *cannot* tell her. There is no need—the morning papers have revealed her desolation to her, and she has only come to secure the help of the Commission in obtaining possession of the remains of her dead. There are no tears, no words of grief, only a still agony, a repressed anguish, which it is painful to witness. All that can be done is freely accorded her, and bowed and staggering under her heavy affliction, she goes forth on her sacred pilgrimage to recover her dead. Alas! how many thousand mothers are, at this hour, refusing to be comforted because their children are not!

Soldiers from the city hospitals next visit us, to beg a shirt, a pair of slippers, a comb, or a pin-cushion—and to talk of their sufferings and privations, and their anxiety to get well and rejoin their regiments. They are praised heartily, petted in the most approved motherly fashion, and sent back altogether lighter hearted than they came.

And so the day wears away. More loaded drays drive up to the door, and disburse barrels of crackers, ale, pickles, sour krout and potatoes; and boxes of shirts, drawers, tea, condensed milk and beef, &c., which are speedily set *en route* for the hospitals. Men and women come and go, to visit, to make inquiries, to ask favors, to offer services, to utter complaints, to bring news from Vicksburg, Memphis, Murfreesboro' or Nashville hospitals, to make donations of money, to retail their sorrows, and sometimes to idle away an hour in the midst of the writing, packing, wheeling, nailing and hurrying of this busy place.

The sun declines westward—its fervid heat is abating—the hands of the clock point to five or six and sometimes seven—and wearied in body, and saturated, mentally, with the passing streams of others' sorrows, we again hail the street car, which takes us back once more to our pleasant home, with its cheerful companionship, and the prattle and merriment and thoughtless gaiety of children. Five days of the seven, when not visiting some of the numerous auxiliaries of the Commission, scattered all over the Northwest, we spend in these rooms, amid scenes like those we have described, which must serve as our excuse for continued neglect of friends and correspondents.—*Mrs. Mary A. Livermore.*

THE PRISONERS AT RICHMOND.

The following correspondence explains itself:

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
Adams' House, 244 F Street,
Washington, D. C., *February* 20, 1864.

Dr. Jenkins,
General Secretary, U. S. Sanitary Commission, N. Y.:

My Dear Sir—The letter referred to me by you makes complaint that money was demanded of the officers in Libby Prison, for clothing furnished them by the Agents of the Sanitary Commission.

Through some mistake, Gen. Neal Dow, (when clothing was first distributed in Libby from the Commission,) informed the officers that they would be expected, when convenient, to return to the Commission an equivalent for the clothing. (He supposing, I presume, that these supplies were entrusted to the Commission by the people for the benefit of privates only.) As soon as this was known at this office,

notice was sent to Gen. Neal Dow and others, that under no circumstances would money be received by Agents of the Sanitary Commission for clothing or supplies distributed by them, and that the officers, alike with privates, had a claim upon whatever we had in store.

The accompanying copies of letters will explain this.

An officer (Colonel,) this afternoon in this office, one of those recently escaped out of Libby, says that, "Some two or three months since Gen. Neal Dow announced in the Prison, and in his hearing, the message from the Commission—that *no pay was* to be taken for Sanitary supplies.

Respectfully, yours truly,

(Signed,) F. N. KNAPP,
Associate Secretary.

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December 15, 1863.

JAMES GALL, JR.,
U. S. Sanitary Commission, Norfolk, Va.:

DEAR SIR—The previous letter (one received to-day,) from Gen. Neal Dow to you, forwarded to this office, referred to the money due to the Commission by officers in Richmond Prison, for clothes, &c., furnished by the Commission.

The Commission *cannot receive any pay* for articles thus furnished; they are *a gift*, alike to officers and men, as I presume you have yourself informed Gen. Dow, and others in Richmond Prison, receiving supplies from the Sanitary Commission.

Will you send me a copy of your communication to him, or others, upon this point, with the date of its probable delivery to him. We wish to assure the people who place these supplies in our hands that we don't allow even officers, when in need, to make any money-return to the Commission.

Already, an officer, who had returned to his home from Richmond, sent in money for clothing received there. The money was returned to him.

Yours truly,

(Signed,) F. N. KNAPP,
Associate Secretary.

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SANITARY COMMISSION,
NORFOLK, VA., *December* 21, 1863.

MR. F. N. KNAPP,
Associate Secretary, Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—Yours of the 15th inst. is just received. I have written two letters to Gen. Dow, one on the 1st and the other on the 8th inst., informing him that in no case could the Sanitary Commission receive pay for articles dispensed by it for the relief of suffering soldiers, be they officers or privates. I stated that if the officers should see fit to contribute in a general way to the funds of the Commission, with a view to aid in carrying out the work of relief with which the Commission is charged, well and good, but *that no specific payment* could be received for any articles furnished in this way. I also took pains to inform the ninety-six released Surgeons whom I accompanied from City Point to Washington, that no recompense whatever was expected, or would be received, by the Sanitary Commission for the articles with which we had furnished them in Prison.

I believe that our position in this respect is pretty well understood by Gen. Dow and his fellow prisoners.

Truly yours,

(Signed,) JAMES GALL, JR.

OUR SUPPLIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Dr. M. M. Marsh, Chief Inspector of the Department of the South, writing under date of February 4th, 1864, in addition to giving a full report of his operations for January, 1864, says:

"A critical re-inspection of most of the troops (in the vicinity of Charleston,) has been made within the last four (4) weeks, their wants ascertained and supplied, and their sanitary condition closely scrutinized. *The per centage of sickness in the force is very low.* It would not be proper to state here how low. Almost the only malady is chronic diarrhœa."

Dr. Marsh has endeavored, by a free issue of vegetables, to supplement the Government rations, and thus diminish the tendency to diseases arising from a want of variety in the food of the men. [See list of issues accompanying this.]

He says: "The Government rations are good; vegetables, however, are necessarily restricted in quantity, from distant transportation. The weather is delightful and salubrious. Small-pox exists among the contrabands, but very few soldiers have taken the disease, thus showing the preventive power of vaccination." [Additional vaccine virus will be sent to Dr. Marsh.] "White refugees from Florida and elsewhere are amongst us, in a state of great destitution. Very naturally, they call upon the Commission for aid." Dr. Marsh inquires whether such aid shall be continuously given. The answer to this question must depend upon the extent to which the people pour their offerings into the storehouses and the treasury of the Commission. Of course, our first duty is to the Federal soldier; but shall we not also be the almoner of the people for such way-worn and hungry fugitives from within the enemy's lines as would otherwise perish, until a better method of relief is devised? Indeed, in

every direction the calls upon the Relief Agents of the Commission are becoming more and more varied and imperative, and nothing but a perennial stream of stores and money can sustain it in the performance of its legitimate and growing functions; nor do we extend relief to any who do not, in some way, present claims that cannot be disregarded. The following list will show the issues made to hospitals and regiments for January:

ISSUES FOR JANUARY, 1864.

Dried fruit	24	bbls.
Crackers	28	"
Apples, fresh	118	"
Potatoes	130	"
Other vegetables	70	"
Pickles	14	"
Apple butter	1¾	"
Tamarinds	2¾	"
Hops	1	"
Ginger, extract	1	gross.
Jellies	92	cans.
Dom. Wine	70	bottles.
F. Wine	2	"
Lig. Ferri Nit	2	"
Stimulants	13	"
Cocoa	1	lbs.
Coffee	48	"
Chocolate	1	"
Condensed milk	102	"
Arrow root	6	"
Corn starch	12	"
Farina	12	"
Quinine	3	ozs.
Slippers, calf	60	pairs.
Drawers, woolen	100	"
Pantaloons	6	"
Shirts, woolen	392	"
Socks, "	112	"
Bandages, woolen	446	
Quilts	44	
Blankets	180	
Pillow cases	76	
Pillows	17	
Towels	132	
Handkerchiefs	120	
Wrappers	34	
Coats	2	
Vests	7	
Bed ticks	12	
Pillow ticks	12	
Sheets	250	
Combs	192	

DR. BLAKE, Inspector United States Sanitary Commission, in the Department of the Gulf, writing under recent date, in speaking of the wants of his department, says: Farinaceous food, condensed milk, dried fruit, woolen socks, shirts and drawers, are always in demand. Pickles, particularly onions and cabbage, are wanted, in large quantities. He says there is a great demand for hospital clothing.

SANITARY AFFAIRS IN NORFOLK.

[Extract of Report of JAMES GALL, JR., Relief Agent, Norfolk, Va., dated January 26th, 1864.]

"In a department of the Army where the troops are chiefly stationary, as in my department, and where the Sanitary Commission has become an old-established and well known institution, dispensing its supplies regularly and systematically, in quarters where they are most needed, and where they are depended upon, and looked for, as much as the regular Government supplies; there is but little of a novel or stirring character, to record in the weekly report of the Relief Agent. But, though there is not much for the agent to report, unless, perhaps, in a general way, there is nothing monotonous in the work he has to perform. However frequent his visits to regiments may be, he takes the same interest in a thoroughly policed and well drained camp; in neat, comfortable, regimental quarters; in well-conditioned hospitals, and the care and comfort of their inmates. And his interest makes him quick to detect, and ready to suggest an improvement. During the past week I have visited many of the camps and hospitals in different parts of the department, and am glad to be able to report a generally improved condition of both. The officers and men are aware of the fact that cleanliness of person, and a proper regard to the sanitary condition of the camp, are absolutely necessary to the preservation of health, and, as a consequence, the suggestions of the Surgeon, or of the Sanitary Commission Agent are, as a general thing, readily accepted and availed of.

"The supplies furnished by us during the week to the different hospitals have been particularly acceptable and beneficial, for the reason that the regular quarterly supplies of stores, due on the 1st inst., have not, in many cases, been delivered to the Surgeons yet, and for certain much needed articles they had to depend wholly on us. Thus, the Sanitary Commission has come to be considered an indispensable part of the Medical Department of the Army.

"Said an enthusiastic Surgeon to me the other day, whilst on my way from Yorktown to Fortress Monroe. 'The world has never seen as sublime a sight as that presented by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, with its immense and harmonious machinery, its trained agents, its accomplished and skillful medical inspectors and writers, and behind all, and *above* all, the generous, warm-hearted, patriotic *people*, who contribute so generously the immense quantities of supplies which the Sanitary Commission

dispenses to our sick soldiers. Yes, sir, when I think of the Sanitary Commission, I am proud of my country.'

"The Surgeon just quoted has been two years in the Army; is a man of large sympathies and high professional reputation; has seldom drawn any thing from the Commission, but has watched its workings closely, and appreciates it fully."

THE FIELD RELIEF ON THE POTOMAC.

Mr. Johnson, our Superintendent of Field Relief, with the Army of the Potomac, reports:

The demand for supplies of the Sanitary Commission during the present winter has been constant in the Army of the Potomac.

The agents who have been withdrawn from their location in the various corps to the depot at this place, have been busily employed visiting the hospitals, regiments, examining into the condition and wants of the sick, and giving such personal attention to the distribution of our supplies as seemed best calculated to insure their proper application. Although instances will occasionally occur in which our benefits have been diverted from the proper objects, it is a satisfaction to believe that they are daily becoming less frequent, and of less importance in their extent, and that almost the entire supplies distributed by this corps, are enjoyed by that class for whom they are designed.

* * * * *

Early in the morning of the 6th inst., rumors reached us that a portion of the army was on the move, and it was soon made known that the —— Corps was advancing in the direction of Raccoon Ford, and the —— Corps towards Morton's Ford, both on the Rapidan, south of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

Heavy artillery firing, about noon, showed that the enemy had been found. During the afternoon the —— Corps went forward, as supports.

Next day, in company with Dr. Fairchild, one of the Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Holbrook and Mr. Clampitt, I rode to the front, to learn the particulars of the movement and provide what was required for the wounded. It appears that the —— Division of the —— Corps forded the Rapidan at Morton's Ford, about noon, and advanced nearly a mile, to the crest of the hills beyond, without finding the rebels in force. Shortly before dark they were attacked by a portion of Ewell's Corps, when a severe engagement ensued, lasting until after dark, and resulting in the withdrawal of the rebels to their earthworks. The —— Division of the —— Corps, now crossed the river to cover the return of the —— Division, which was accomplished without further loss, about midnight. Our dead, some fifteen in number, were buried, and our wounded, nearly two hundred in all, were carried on stretchers across the river, and placed in the ambulances, when they were taken to the hospitals of one of the brigades of the —— Division, near ——— ——. At the time of our visit the wounded were being taken to the Corps Hospital. We all went there, found that some of the sufferers had preceded, and that others were following us. On visiting the hospitals, and upon conversation with the Surgeons in charge, I FOUND THAT WARM UNDER-CLOTHING WAS WANTED BY NEARLY ALL THE NEW ARRIVALS.

The fight occurred about dark on Saturday. The men had forded the river, nearly waist-deep, and without any means of drying their clothes, had gone into battle, and many of them had fallen.

Their suffering, in this state of discomfort, from wet, cold and wounds, continued with slight alleviation until they reached the Corps Hospital, during Sunday afternoon, and were made tolerably comfortable. During the same afternoon our supplies of woolen shirts, drawers and socks, reached them, and were immediately used in exchange for the garments stained and saturated with blood. Every one of the many wounded men required a change, more or less complete, and, of course, as Government furnishes none but cotton under-clothing, our supply was almost indispensable to the comfort and welfare of the patients. Seeing that there was a great deficiency in surgical help, Dr. Fairchild very kindly assisted Dr. Dudley in dressing the wounded men, and spent several hours in this humane duty, until they had all been attended to. I believe that none of the troops of the First and Third Corps were under fire during this advance, and that the cavalry under Gens. Merritt and Kilpatrick escaped serious loss.

BACK PAY.

Mr. Brown reports, February 2d:

The amount of work done in my department, in Lodge No. 4, during the month of January, has been as follows:

Whole number of cases for back pay taken	93
Whole number completed by securing pay	60
Otherwise completed	23
Total number of completed cases	83
Amount represented by the sixty cases completed by securing pay	$2,744.90
Number of letters written	122

You will perceive that the amount secured the past month is less than half what was collected in December. There are various reasons for this. January is not a muster month, and I

have found that it is better not to press through new cases at the commencement of a non-muster month, for it frequently happens that before the muster-day of the alternate month comes round, that the man is transferred to some other department, and there is a difficulty in finding out his whereabouts. This would not occur, if men were transferred directly to their regiments. I find, however, that I can employ this time profitably in looking up tough cases, which require the collection of a large amount of evidence in order to establish their claim to back pay.

The first nineteen days of the past month were entirely spent on these old cases, only one new case being taken during that time.

One other reason for the diminished amount received has been that Mr. Pryme has been away seven or eight days on account of sickness, and I had the misfortune to contract a severe cold in the early part of the month, which has necessitated the suspension of evening work for a large share of the time since.

Many of the cases recently taken are from the Invalid Corps, although patients in the various hospitals here.

The accounts of these men are in a very complicated condition, some of them having been transferred from regiment to regiment several times. Many have been the rounds of a large number of hospitals and camps besides, and their condition is frequently such that they can give no intelligent account of themselves.

These men, having been away from their original regiments a long time, are frequently borne on the rolls as "deserters," "absent without leave," &c., &c., or more often dropped entirely.

In either case, it must be shown, by the certificates of commissioned officers, where the man has been for *every day* of the missing time.

I have succeeded in getting these charges removed in a number of cases where they had no foundation in fact. The accumulating evidence in some of the other cases, however, has shown that the charges were well founded. These I have relinquished on becoming satisfied on this point.

The correspondence necessary to carry on this branch of the work has been constantly increasing.

SCURVY.

Certain portions of our Army in the Southwest begin to exhibit a taint of what Doctors call a "scorbutic taint," and plain people, "a tendency to scurvy."

Perhaps some one of our readers does not understand the terrible meaning of these words, and thinks them about equal in significance to a "tendency to sore throat," or "diarrhœa." If so, let him ask the first educated physician, or old experienced sailor, what SCURVY is, when it finds its way into a camp or a whaling ship. He will be told that when either of these isolated little communities is visited by this fearful taint, every one of its members, soldier or sailor, loses a certain portion of that unknown force by which he is enabled to live, and in fact begins to die. He becomes listless, languid, and weary. Every wound, even a cut finger, refuses to heal. Every trifling ailment, every cold or indigestion, becomes malignant, and obstinately resists medicine. Old wounds and bruises that were forgotten twenty years ago, prove themselves to have been somehow mysteriously latent in his body all the time, for they re-appear and re open. Then, as this subtle taint gains further grasp of the patient, it displays its own independent symptoms, in the form of ulcerations, and swellings, and lacerating pains under which he perishes, inevitably by slow torture—gradually decomposing into death—unless a certain infallible remedy reach him in season.

And what is this remedy? It is no prescription that can be ordered at the apothecary's—no combination of drugs about which the doctors can differ, but simply (hear it, ye Farmers of New England and New York, and the great fruitful West,) a supply of potatoes, or onions, or cabbages, or fresh vegetables, or fresh or dried fruits of any sort. Physicians call these "anti-scorbutics," and a man dying of scurvy is restored to life if he be supplied with them.

The Commission has long been sending "anti-scorbutics" to the Army by the ton. Just at this time it is difficult to send them to certain points where they are most urgently wanted, because transportation can hardly be obtained for "Sanitary stores" of any class. and, also, because these life-saving vegetables freeze on the road, and then decay and become worthless. But as the season grows milder this latter obstacle will cease to exist—and the Sanitary Commission will somehow or other vanquish the former, and find or make means of carrying help to our soldiers. Let every loyal and humane farmer throughout the country remember that a month hence a string of onions or a peck of potatoes, sent to the Sanitary Commission, will enable it to save some one National soldier from death, and let him set aside what he can spare from his stock, accordingly.

The Commission is taking steps to secure a supply of vegetables for the Army, in addition to what it feels certain of receiving from the people. It is establishing "vegetable gardens" for the Army in Kentucky and Tennessee, at Newbern and at Hilton Head and elsewhere. It has received from the military authorities tracts of farm-land, abandoned by Secessionist proprietors. It has sent on from New York seeds and agricultural implements. Its Inspectors and Relief Agents have secured the labor of "contrabands," and of volunteers from our Northern regiments—"boys" recruited on the hill-side farms of Vermont and the great prairie "lots" of Indiana. But the fruit of these undertakings at the front is necessarily more or less uncertain. What the Commission has sown may be reaped by rebels in temporary re-occupation of the field. The Army must rely mainly on the contributions of our Northern farmers, for its defence against the insidious attacks of scurvy.

G. G. EDGERLEY, ESQ., Agent Sanitary Commission, writing from Port Hudson, says, that the supplies of vegetables, crackers, farina and woolen shirts sent by the Commission to the hospitals of that post. were most opportune. He says *that pickles, farinaceous food, and woolen shirts* are still in demand.

[Extract from the Minutes of the Standing Committee, February 23d, 1864.]

☞ As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

☞ The statement has of late, been pretty frequently made, and that, too, by persons whose official position is calculated to give weight to their opinions and assertions, that the Army is no longer in want of supplies from the people at home, that the Government is able to provide and does provide for the wants of all, both sick and well, and that the work of the Sanitary Commission is now a work of supererogation. This is a grave mistake. Every body connected with the Army knows that the troops were never in greater need of all that their friends at home can furnish. Constant and urgent appeals are made for stores, and the contributions of all things that tend to the health and comfort of the soldier, both in the field and hospital, were never more precious to the eyes of the medical and military officers. We call attention to several articles in this number as part of the accumulated proof of what we would most emphatically impress upon our readers. General Grant's great and increasing Army, in order to be up to its proper efficiency, needs to-day ALL that can be furnished by the plow and hoe of the farmer, the needle of his wife, the loom of the factory, and the purse of the rich.

DISBURSEMENTS AT NASHVILLE.

The following list comprises the disbursements at Nashville, during the month of January:

Blankets	174	Cans of Fruit	1,831
Comforts	196	Concent'd Beef...lbs.	1,467
Bed Ticks	180	Concent'd Milk..lbs.	3,176
Pillows	2,009	Crackers.....lbs.	9,817
Pillow Cases	2,093	Dried Beef.....lbs.	100
Sheets	719	Tea.....lbs.	1,531
Shirts	6,546	Sugar.....lbs.	3,900
Drawers.....prs.	3,061	Dried Fruit.....lbs.	13,762
Dressing Gowns	440	Fresh Fruit....bush.	162
Coats and Vests	253	Light Groceries..lbs.	2,212
Towels and Handk'fs.	3,009	Codfish.....lbs.	4,149
Socks.....prs.	2,354	Cheese.....lbs.	25
Slippers.....prs.	137	Butter.....lbs.	2,743
Mittens.....prs.	383	Eggs.....doz.	75
Arm Slings	157	Wine & Spirits..bots.	1,230
Bandages and Pads	5,292	Apple Butter...galls.	274
Compresses.....lbs.	1,907	Pickles.....galls.	1,969
Pin Cushions	300	Sour Krout.....galls.	8,742
Crutches.....prs.	26	Potatoes.....bush.	3,423
Books, &c	725	Onions.....bush.	1,570
Sundries	391	Ale and Cider..galls.	765

PROTECTIVE
War-Claim Association
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE, 35 CHAMBERS STREET,
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Apply in person or by letter, to
HENRY GREENFIELD, *Sec'y*,
35 CHAMBERS STREET, New York.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1*st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.*

2*d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.*

3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

THE MERCANTILE MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY.
No. 35 Wall Street, New York.

INCORPORATED APRIL, 1842.

Assets over $1,400,000.

MARINE and Inland Transportation risks on Vessels. Freight and Merchandise insured on the most favorable terms.

Policies are issued, loss, if any, payable in Gold, or at the office of RATHBONE, BROTHERS & CO., Liverpool, if desired.

Parties effecting insurance at this office may participate in the scrip dividend of profits, or receive an equivalent cash discount, at their own option.

The risk of war covered at the lowest current rates.

ELLWOOD WALTER, Pres't.
CHAS. NEWCOMB, Vice-Pres't.
C. J. DESPARD, Secretary.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.
C. J. Stillé, " "

OFFICERS:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., President.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President.
George T. Strong, Treasurer.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Associate Secretary.
J. H. Douglas, M.D., Associate Secretary.
F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Henry W. Bellows, D.D.
George T. Strong.
William H. Van Buren, M.D.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.
C. R. Agnew, M.D.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Soldier's Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C.W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Sup't.

AGENCY FOR PENSIONS.

William F. Bascom, Pension Agent, Washington, D. C

HOSPITAL CARS.

Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M. D., Surgeon in charge.
Between New York and Boston, via Springfield.
Between Louisville and Murfreesboro'—Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in charge.

SANITARY STEAMER.

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Marine and Fire Insurance.

METROPOLITAN
INSURANCE COMPANY,

108 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - - $300,000.00.
ASSETS, - - - - - - - - - - $542,541.85.

This Company insures, at customary rates of premium, against all MARINE and INLAND NAVIGATION RISKS on CARGO or FREIGHT; also, against loss or damage by FIRE.

The Assured receive 75 per cent. of the net profits, without incurring any liability, or in lieu thereof, at their option, a liberal discount upon the premium.

Scrip Dividend declared January 12, 1864,

THIRTY-FIVE PER CENT.

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OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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WM. M. WHITNEY, 2d Vice-President and Secretary.

Thirteenth Annual Report

OF THE

Manhattan Life Insurance COMPANY,

Of NEW YORK.

Office, No. 31 NASSAU STREET, opposite the Post Office.

New York, January 1, 1864.

Net Assets, January 1, 1863		$1,287,597 35
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR:		
For Premiums, Extra Premiums, &c.	$644,856 92	
" Interest and Rents	93,195 90	
" Interest and Rents accrued	14,348 56	
		752,401 38
		$2,039,998 73
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Paid Claims by Death on Policies and Bonus, and payment of Annuities	$153,654 27	
Paid Expenses, Salaries, Taxes, Medical Examiners' Fees, Commissions, &c.	88,828 87	
Paid Dividends, Re-Insurance, Purchased Policies and Bonus and Interest on Dividends	248,666 37	
		491,149 51
		1,548,849 22
ASSETS:		
Cash in Bank	$ 27,962 13	
Bonds and Mortgages	261,974 00	
Real Estate	146,678 74	
Premium Notes on Policies in Force	595,945 34	
(The Actuarial estimate of the value of the Policies which secure these Notes is about $700,000)		
Quarterly and Semi-Annual Premiums Deferred	55,532 07	
United States and New York State Stocks	270,416 25	
Premiums and Interest in the hands of Agents in course of collection and transmission, secured by Bonds	119,442 13	
Temporary Loans on Stocks and Bonds	56,550 00	
Interest accrued to 1st January, and all other property	14,348 56	
		$1,548,849 22

J. L. HALSEY, Ass't Sec'y. HENRY STOKES, Pres't.

S. N. STEBBINS, Actuary. **C. Y. WEMPLE, Secretary.**

A. DU BOIS, Medical Examiner.

REYNOLDS & VAN SCHAICK, Counsel.

PARTICIPATION

FIRE INSURANCE.

NORTH AMERICAN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of the City of New York,

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - $500,000 00
ASSETS, - - - - - - - 604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$157,360	00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	364,385	00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603	11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000	00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,384	00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220	39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788	83
Other Property of Company	793	75
	$604,535	59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years.*

The Customers receive **Three-Fourths** of the Net Profits of the business each year, without incurring any liability whatever.

R. W. BLEECKER, Sec'y. **JAMES W. OTIS, Pres't.**

R. F. MASON, Superintendent of Agencies.

DURYEA'S MAIZENA

RECEIVED

TWO PRIZE MEDALS





(FROM JURIES 3 AND 4)

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,

LONDON, 1862.

Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

"EXCEEDING EXCELLENT FOR FOOD."

MAIZENA,

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

MAIZENA,

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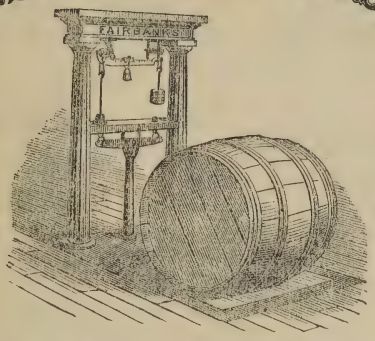
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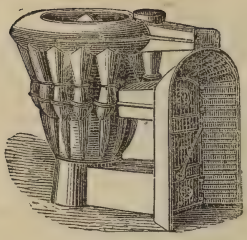
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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, MARCH 15, 1864. No. 10.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

PLAIN ANSWERS TO PLAIN QUESTIONS.

Four questions about the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which are asked by some people who are not so much carried away by the excitement of the Fairs but what they can stop and inquire whether, after all, there is any sober necessity or fitness in this exertion to sustain an institution which aims to *supplement* Government supplies for the aid or relief of the soldiers.

First.—What *is* the Sanitary Commission, and why does such an institution exist at all ?

Second.—Is the growth of this Sanitary Commission a healthy growth, or is it not rather ministered to by a morbid sentiment ?

Third.—Has not the "*emergency*" passed, which is said to have called for, and justified this irregular agency ?

Fourth.—If the emergency has not passed, three years having elapsed, what prospect is there that it ever will be passed so long as the war continues?

These are the questions which some people ask — the birth, the pulse, the muscle, and the will of this Sanitary Commission, with its probable length of life.

The answers are as follows:

First.—The Sanitary Commission came into existence as the child of these two parents, viz.: on the one side, the motherly love which kept swelling up night and day in millions of hearts, and flowed out towards the tented field in such a stream as threatened to overrun all bounds. On the other side, the manly demand for law and system to guide and control this great moving tide. The marriage of these two gave birth to the Commission. Except for that union—the masculine with this feminine element—that tremendous tide of love, and impulse, and anxious tenderness, would ere long have been met by pointed bayonets and turned back, and forbidden entrance to the camp and hospital. This would have been done as a "military necessity," to save the Army from the embarrassment and the enervating influence of this rush of indiscriminate, irresponsible charity.

But God, in his mercy, could not see this mighty heaving of human hearts, which might become such a real power for good, lost to the World; so He wedded it to that which is really its truest lover and rightful spouse—law and system.

Government received assurance that not obtrusively, or unwisely, should this work of charity henceforth be done; that it would ever recognize and consult military authority and the necessity for military rules and discipline; that it would not run counter to, or parallel with (as in rivalry of,) the Medical Department, but strictly and gladly in co-operation with it—and to supply what that Department did not, or could not, readily furnish, whereby to add to the good health and good cheer of their sons, fathers and husbands, who meantime did not love their homes less, though they loved their country more.

Thus, the Sanitary Commission is the blended charity of all the Loyal States,

gathered and organized according to carefully studied methods approved by Government, so as best to guarantee the efficiency —to economize the energy, and to secure the continuance of this generous love which looked out with aching eyes and waiting hands from almost every house in the land.

Thus, is the Sanitary Commission the Agent of the People,—and a "Trustee" of their bounty, *held accountable*, and wishing to be held accountable for the use of all that is committed to it, of love and of opportunity, as well as of money and of supplies. It is the office of the Commission to find and meet those many needs which, as the world knows, always have existed with every great army, in spite of all that Government could do.

Its office embraces not merely the temporary alleviation of suffering, but by careful investigation and wise council, it aims to introduce reforms and new methods, and to remove many of the causes themselves of disease and death—and it seeks to excite to keener watchfulness and larger provision of official faithfulness.

Thus, in another form of phrase, is the Sanitary Commission the hand of "the People," filled with bread and wine, reached out in such manner as not to be refused; while back of it, giving it the pulse of its daily life, is this great, warm, throbbing heart at home—which must throb and beat, and will not be still, until those they have sent to the field be given back to them living or dead; and this they do not ask and would not accept until the war is so finished that Freedom shall be borne in with Peace.

Such is the answer to the first question: What *is* the Sanitary Commission, and why does such an institution exist at all?

The second question asks: Is this constantly increasing growth of the Sanitary Commission a healthy growth, or is not rather ministered to by a morbid sentiment? The answer is: It is peculiarly free from the danger or tendency of running into or resting upon sentiment. Its whole system of action is reduced, as far as is consistent with humanity, to business rules. It appeals to the public for support, not merely on the ground of alleviating the suffering of the soldiers, but on the ground of rendering more effective the men who are to carry on the war. It looks upon each man saved, or restored to health, as so much muscle, or will, or power given to the Army, as well as a husband or son given to his home.

The next question asks: Has not the "emergency" past which is said to have called for and justified this irregular agency? The answer is very clearly: No, it has not past. The calls for the agency are, indeed, different from what they were at first in many respects. Government, with increased facilities and larger experience, now embraces in its regular arrangements provision for some of the services once rendered by the Commission. But Government makes no provision for that immense class of cases covered by "Special Relief," requiring "Houses," "Lodges," agencies for correcting defective papers, collecting back pay for the feeble, obtaining pensions, carrying to their own homes the sick, guarding discharged soldiers from knaves and fiends, distributing clothes and comforts to individuals who are destitute. Hence, in this respect, the "emergency" has not passed which called for this irregular agency. Nor has Government yet obtained from Congress a bill granting to the Medical Department independent transportation for its supplies; and, in lack of this, it is absolutely essential that there be some agency—efficient, experienced, and well provided—to stand ready to bear to the battle-field, without a moment's waiting and without dependence upon Department supplies for the wounded and exhausted; for just then it is, in the first few hours after a battle, that a very little succor saves hundreds of lives; an hour of time then, and one ton of supplies then, are worth many hours and many tons the day following. Nor has Government yet provided that its Surgeons have authority to purchase, at discretion, supplies to meet emergencies; hence, the necessity continues for an agent close at hand authorized to buy, to any amount, from the nearest source, a supply—whatever may at once be used to feed or shelter the wounded upon the field of battle. And facts show that, but for this agency having been near, with the power

thus to purchase supplies, great suffering and loss of life would have occurred where food and blessing were by this means given to hundreds and even thousands of our wounded men.

Therefore, so long as these two obstacles continue to exist, (which the Medical Department have endeavored to have removed,) the "emergency" spoken of still stands; and so important to the saving of the lives of men and alleviating their sufferings is it to meet this emergency, that it would be guilt to neglect making the largest provision, though it be made, as it now is, at a heavy cost.

We might speak, also, of the work of furnishing to the general and regimental hospitals home comforts, as well as more usual supplies to meet special deficiencies. While these "supplementary" supplies give a hand of help in time of real need, these extra home comforts restore to health the soldier in his weary hospital life. We must not omit mention of the "Hospital Directory." It is essential, so the public say, to the friends at home; and, therefore, just here an "emergency," or certainly a demand, exists which the Sanitary Commission alone attempts to meet.

The final question asks: If the "*emergency*" has not passed, three years having elapsed, what prospect is there that it will be passed so long as the war continues? The answer is: We see no prospect that the need of the Commission will cease while the war goes on. Most of the conditions enumerated in answering the previous questions will, doubtless, continue to the end. Some of them are conditions inseparable from war, which Government cannot attend to, which its heavy machinery (necessarily and wisely made heavy, adapted to meet permanent conditions, not emergencies,) cannot adapt itself to.

Some, as is readily seen, are conditions developed as the war goes on. Those which exist this year may not exist next year; but others will arise in their place, unexpected now, but claiming at the time prompt and ample provision.

And it becomes a question worth considering, whether, even if it were possible, it would be desirable to have the provisions of Government so perfect and efficient that there would be no necessity or opportunity for this voluntary aid of the people? Who can tell how much of the cheerful and vigorous life of our Army, now years away from home, may be owing to the constant recognition by the soldiers of the work and love of the people ever thinking of them.

And who shall say what would have become of the people—the mothers, wives and daughters of the men in the tents, the hospitals and on the battle-fields—if they had not been allowed to spend their thoughts and time in working for those they love better than life!

F. N. K.

SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

No. 823 Broadway, N. Y.,
February 27th, 1864.

To the Standing Committee of the
United States Sanitary Commission:

Gentlemen—A survey of the field of the Commission's work, as furnished by communications received at this office since your meeting of the 19th instant, shows a varied degree of activity existing in its different Departments.

At the West, increased attention is being given to the hospital centers at Memphis and Vicksburg, having under treatment 2,500 and 2,000 sick, respectively. Vicksburg has again become an important point, the sick and wounded of Gen. Sherman's forces continuing to arrive there up to the 17th instant, the date of the last advices.

The steamer Navigator, chartered by Dr. Newberry, for transportation on the Mississippi River, became disabled, and her first load was transferred to the Government transport Mississippi, by which it would be conveyed from Cairo free of cost to the Commission, to various points on the river.

Dr. Warriner expected to send a portion of the vegetables to New Orleans, where such supplies were much needed.

The Samuel Hill, sent up from New Orleans to Cairo, with sick, was also provided at that point with a considerable stock of vegetables, to be distributed within the Department of the Gulf.

At Chattanooga, the health of the troops is reported as improved. Special attention had been paid to scorbutic patients, and the issue of vegetables had effected much

good. Dr. Barnum has sent the report concerning transportation of the sick asked for by the Commission in January. The Assistant Surgeon-General has adopted Dr. B. as an officer of the Medical Bureau, but proposes that he shall still report to Dr. Newberry.

Dr. Newberry is at Cleveland, but returns early next week to Louisville, and thence to Nashville. He has been informed of the appropriation by the Commission for the building of Homes at Detroit and Buffalo.

Among the forces in Virginia, there has been reported little but routine work, At Portsmouth, however, a Lodge as a center of the work of special relief has been established by favor of the military authority, and is likely to render a much needed service. General Butler also evinces a disposition to encourage the Commission in its proposed care for the sick on the flag-of-truce boats, should exchanges of prisoners again occur.

In North Carolina, Dr. Page, is with system, planting hospital gardens with apparent prospects of success. He is much concerned at the possible spread of small pox, owing to the imperfect character of the vaccine matter received in that Department. He will be furnished weekly with moderate amounts of carefully selected virus. From September, 1863, to January 1st, in 666 cases—the mortality was 184, or about 28 per cent. From January to February 13th, of 285 new cases 105 died—a mortality of about 37 per cent., indicating, perhaps, an increased intensity of the epidemic influence.

Dr. Marsh writes from Beaufort of much work done and attempted with insufficient help and inadequate strength. He proposes to return to New York after the present campaign is over, and he has supplied in advance, so far as they can be anticipated, the wants of the following two months. If in sufficient health he will return, and would like to be accompanied with one medical and one lay assistant.

Our losses of stores at the late repulse at Olustee, Fla., are believed to be slight. The provision of stores for this Department is shown to be good, by the fact that a humane and careful Inspector like Dr. Marsh urges us not to send out any supplies to him on account of this engagement. Dr. Marsh reports a statement of casualties in Florida. He was to return there on the 23d instant.

There are no reports from Louisiana within the week, except a special one concerning aid rendered to the Navy during the past year, and the monthly report of stock on hand, and requisition for supplies.

In the home field there is great need, especially at the East, of increased effort for the production of material supplies. The three principal depots at Boston, New York and Philadelphia, are now nearly empty, and the prospect of their speedy replenishment, except the one at Boston, is not good. The diverting influence of the present and projected Fairs accounts for this, to some extent, in New York and Pennsylvania.

The number of canvassers employed in the Eastern States is now considerable. In New England, three; in New York, two; in New Jersey, one; and visiting several States, two; while in the home field at the West three are employed. They have been generally instructed that they are not to consider as of secondary importance the increase of local work, and not to solicit contributions to the Central Treasury, where such contributions would diminish the local interest in the work of supply in kind.

No reports of Inspectors have come in within the week. Dr. Graham has gone to Knoxville.

Respectfully,

J. Foster Jenkins,
General Secretary.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

[From the North American Review.]

It is not the fault of the Sanitary Commission if exaggerated ideas of its claims and importance, as compared with those of the Medical Department, prevail in many quarters. In public addresses in all the great cities, in published letters to Governors of States and to State Surgeon-Generals, in its regular reports, and under all circumstances, it has magnified and cele-

brated the growing efficiency of the Medical Department, chronicled its vast and beneficent reforms, defending the Bureau against unjust charges, shown the recklessness of the rife rumors as to the general negligence, cupidity, and impotence of the Surgeons in the service, and endeavored to acquaint the public with the dependence of the sick and wounded on the care, pity, and generous provision of the Government itself, rather than on outside aid and mercy.

It is plain how exposed to misapprehension the Medical Department of so vast an army as ours is, how little credit it gets for the regular and successful performance of its duties, how much blame for its occasional failures to meet the exigencies that beset its affairs. All the while, for food, clothing, shelter, medical care, nursing, transportation, the sick or wounded soldier is dependent upon, and actually receives, seven-eighths of all he needs from the Government itself. The other eighth he must owe to the pity and care of some outside beneficence. He himself is apt to accept only as his due, and therefore thoughtlessly and ungratefully, all that the Government does for him, and to have the liveliest sense only of what it does not do, and to utter the most indignant complaints at its neglect. Of course he gives a corresponding gratitude to those who come in as volunteers to supply the necessary or unavoidable defects and omissions from which he suffers; and the Sanitary Commission, or some similar organization, gets for its comparatively light labors the praise and the gratitude really due in much larger measure to the Government itself and the Medical Department—above all, to the laborious and devoted Surgeons themselves. It is the old fallacy—we think more of the two-penny ounce of butter than of the ten-penny loaf of bread; because one merely satisfies our hunger, and the other gratifies our palate. The Sanitary Commission, being really in earnest, laboring not for praise, but for practical results, saw the vast importance of strengthening and stimulating that system to which the soldier must owe seven-eighths of his chances of escape from sickness, and of care and comfort when sick; and that no skill or success in managing and magnifying its own contingent work, which at the utmost was but a fractional interest, could be any sort of substitute for the zeal and efficiency of the regular Department. It saw and recognized the value of the loaf of bread, and determined not to allow the butter question to blind its own or the public's eyes.

But, after all, it had its own work to do, and to do well. It was plain enough, after a very short study, that the general utility and success of the Army system, and of the Medical Department as a portion of it, depended upon rigidity of method. Discipline is the soul of an army; strict accountableness and limited responsibility are essential in the administration of military affairs. Routine makes the skeleton, and red tape applies the ligaments to the system.

To attempt to supply an army as a family, or a village, or a city is supplied, or to carry civil maxims or customs into the camp, is a pure impossibility. Strict rules and regulations, and compulsory and inevitable conformity to them, are the conditions of the largest good to the largest number. It is certain, beforehand, that this necessary system will press with terrible severity upon a considerable class of exceptions; but to consider these exceptions, and bend the system to accommodate or include them, would be to imperil the advantage of that vast majority which the rule is established to serve. If the tape is so loose that any one paper can be easily pulled from the bundle, all the papers are likely to be lost, or found scattered by the wind. The Sanitary Commission, therefore, has never joined in the popular cry of too much red tape; it has never asked for, or consented to, any scheme for conducting medical affairs in a free and easy manner, without military subordination and carefully limited responsibilities. Whatever evils have attended this system, have been less than those its removal would instantly evoke. Indeed, it was mainly to enable the Medical Department to maintain its own rules with rigorous fidelity. that the Commission undertook to look after only these individual wants, and those exceptional sufferings, which grow out of the necessary imperfection of all large systems, and which have always furnished it its only legitimate and

welcome opportunities of service. That the exceptions in an army of a million and more of men, at one time or another in the field, with an average sick list of at least fifty thousand men, should be numerous in themselves, however small relatively to the number taken care of by the Medical Department itself, is what the most thoughtless might anticipate. They have been numerous enough and constant enough to task the utmost liberality of the nation, and to afford the most steady and exhausting labor to the Sanitary Commission. At no time have the extra supplies furnished by the public to the Commission, or to any and all outside ministries, been fully equal to the demands. Nor, with the experience now afforded to the careful students of army movements and exigencies, does it appear at all strange that great and frequent failures should attend the best plans of the Medical Department; battles proving general, when they were expected to be skirmishes or reconnoissances; the wounded turning out twice as many as any reasonable foresight could have anticipated; time and place of fighting being both suddenly changed; transportation impeded or preoccupied by greater necessities; and movements of the enemy, instantly defeating the whole, and the most sagacious arrangements made by Medical Directors.

Let it be remembered, that the first office of an army is to fight, and that the first necessity of the Government is to look after the fighting men, providing them with adequate ammunition, food, and reinforcements—that at the time of an impending battle, or during one, the chief solicitude is not, cannot, and ought not to be about the wounded, but about those still able to fight—and it will be seen how perplexed, delayed, and hampered the Medical Department must be, in getting forward its stores, in removing the wounded, or in taking care of them promptly. The first interests of the Army require that the Medical Department should be left in this subordinate and dependent position. You cannot afford it independent transportation without destroying its co-ordination with the other departments, and embarrassing it nine-tenths of the time with the care of trains, horses, and forage, for the sake of the advantages that would accrue to it for the other tenth of the time. Nor can the Commanding-General safely allow his hospital stores to be jeoparded by advancing them to the front, which doubtless would, if safe, be the most convenient for the service of the wounded or the sick. Thus, after the battle of Gettysburg, when Meade was pursuing Lee's flying army, and another general battle was hourly expected near the old field of Antietam, the General would not, and could not, allow the vast medical stores required in case of a battle to be brought over South Mountain, because Boonsboro', beyond which his own headquarters lay, and where the Sanitary Commission had opened its store houses, was liable any day to be attacked and ransacked by the enemy's cavalry. This was prudent and humane; and yet in case of a great battle it must have caused enormous suffering. Now, for this very reason that it was not safe for the Government stores, the Sanitary Commission determined to run the risk of its own stores, that, if a battle did occur, it might alleviate the wants of the battle-field, till the regular medical stores could be brought up. Thus the Medical Department followed its legitimate and bounden course of duty in obedience to judicious orders from headquarters. The Sanitary Commission, with its independent transportation, and independent movements in general, followed also its legitimate and necessary duty, and stood ready to prevent the evils which must otherwise flow from the best and wisest course left open to the Medical Department.

But it was not in battle fields and exigencies chiefly that the Commission found most seriously tested its principle of doing nothing for the sick and wounded soldiers which it could induce or compel the Government to do. Regimental, field, and general hospitals have been the steady sphere of its labors. It has spent its chief time, supplies, and energies in satisfying the wants existing there. For the first year of the war, there was not commercial industry enough in the country to supply the actual wants of the Army. Clothing could not be manufactured fast enough to meet the rapidly recruited ranks. Cloths were imported by the Government, as a

protection against the enormous rates which holders of suitable stuffs were selfishly exacting. Besides, the ideas of the Government Bureaus did not and could not expand as fast as the unprecedented wants of the Army did. Timidity and caution tied up even the boldest hands. The suffering which existed in the rank and file from want of blankets, stockings, overcoats, and tents was very great. The regimental hospitals, under new and inexperienced Surgeons, without acquaintance with bureau routine, were often desperately deficient, both in what they might have had, if at the proper time they had known how to ask for it, and in what no skill in asking at that time could secure. The general hospitals were just beginning to be established. Inconvenient and wholly unsuitable buildings were the only ones within reach, and the Government was not then aroused to the necessity of creating proper ones. The Hospital Fund, the usual adequate resource of the Surgeon for all *extra* comforts and delicacies, now extensively—nay, universally—in operation, could not at once be inaugurated, even by experts, and was utterly beyond the management of novices. It afforded no dependence for many months, and was of little use for the first year of the war. The Sanitary Commission took its place, and supplied a large part of all which the best and most efficient management could have yielded. It came in, everywhere, to do just what Government and the Medical Department, in the sudden expansion of the Army, by successive monstrous motions, from 75,000 to 300,000, to 500,000, to 800,000 men, could not so adjust means to ends, and supplies to the vast wants of the hour, as effectively and humanely to accomplish. But it did its work on system, according to analogous rules, and with a strict understanding with the Department and Bureaus, so as to discourage the imperfect preparations or inadequate arrangements of the Medical Bureau or Quartermaster-General; to make neglect hard and difficult and disagreeable for them; to uphold their efforts for reform and enlargement; and to emphasize in such a way their dependence, as to shame them into efforts to break loose from it. The Commission furnished no hospital supplies except on requisition of the Surgeon himself, who thereby acknowledged his dependence on outside help for what it was his pride and his duty to obtain from the Department he represented. No distribution by outside parties was allowed. The discipline of the hospitals, with the authority of the officers, medical and otherwise, was to be carefully upheld. No help that could be extended to individual cases of suffering would atone for the injustice done the general principle itself.

That which has often been made an objection to the Sanitary Commission, that it did not fill the hospitals with resident relief agents, or nurses, who should themselves be the judges of the wants of the sick, and the direct vehicles of relief, in the form of clothing, delicacies, or medicines, was one of its cardinal virtues. Such intrusion into military hospitals was not only fatal to discipline, to due responsibility, to the quietude of the place, and the control of the diet and treatment of the sick, but it was fatal to the peace, the self-respect, and the *esprit de corps* of the Medical Department. Wherever it was allowed, it did little but harm, and if the Sanitary Commission had encouraged or countenanced it, they would soon have lost all the influence they had with the Department and the Surgeons. Instead of this, they appointed experts to visit the hospitals, observe their wants, see the officers, nurses, and men, and, after conference with the Surgeon in charge, to obtain from him a requisition on their supplies for what he felt the hospital to need—to be applied under his own orders, and by his own agents, to his own patients. Skilled and judicious women, offering their services as nurses, and accepted through the free and hearty consent of the Surgeons in charge, have rendered invaluable services to the sick ever since the hospitals were opened. But they have owed their usefulness to their strict obedience and conformity to Army regulations, and only those docile and wise enough to respect the superior knowledge and authority of the Surgeons have been for any considerable time able to keep their places, or to make themselves greatly serviceable. Perhaps two hundred such women exist in the whole Army; to

whose noble, devoted, and gentle hearts, skillful hands, and administrative faculties are due a considerable part of the success which has attended the operation of our military nursing. The main dependence is, at all times, on detailed or enlisted male nurses, who, to the number perhaps of two thousand, are always on duty, and to the unwearied labors of our Surgeons—who, as a class, are not only utterly incapable of the negligence, drunkenness, fraud, and greediness with which they have been publicly charged, but have really rendered illustrious services, not only by gallant self-exposure in the field, but in watching and waiting on their charges with a vigilance which has cost many of them their lives. The cruel aspersions with which bigots and fanatics have often visited their conduct on battle-fields, where three or four consecutive nights have passed in hard service, with only two or three hours' sleep, has made their ability to do any work, or to keep themselves alive, dependent on the use of stimulants—charging them with general drunkenness, as at Chancellorville—are a scandal and slander which the closest and longest opportunities of observation enable us utterly to refute. The ordinary per centage of incompetency, lack of principle, and inhumanity doubtless exists among the Army Surgeons; but on the whole, we judge them to be superior to any other equally large class of officers in the field, while their duties are probably more constant, and at times more exhausting, than those of any other class.

It is by strict fidelity to these general principles that the Sanitary Commission has endeavored to avoid the peril which threatened the efficiency of the Government service, by outside interposition; and its success as an organization is due to the genuineness of the faith in which it has carried out its pledges to the Government, to be a strictly subordinate and ancillary body—loyal to the Medical Department—its fearless critic, but never its rival or supplanter—its watchful spur, but never its sly traducer or its disguised enemy.

LETTERS IN OUR DRAWER.

It is no part of the business of the Commission to meddle in politics, but it will be seen from the following letter that we have been unconsciously instrumental in securing one vote for Mr. Lincoln.

FORT DELAWARE,
February 25, 1864.

MR. J. B. ABBOTT, *Washington*:

DEAR SIR—I received the statement of my inquiry in regard to my back pay, &c., which I am under a great obligation to you for, and I hope that I will be able to repay you some day. I will give you my address when I am at my native residence, and when this cruel war is over, and there ever should be any way that I could repay you and you let me know, I will try and do it for you. I am now a private soldier in the army, and expect to be, till this war is over, God permitting.

My address is William Graham, Temperanceville, Alleghany Co., Penn.

It was not for the amount of my pay that prompted me to write to the President of your famous institution, but for the disgrace of having me marked as a deserter when I had no intentions of any such a thing. It was not my wishes to be discharged from the service, but Dr. Reiter told me that I could not stand it at all; but it is as you say, that it is more satisfaction to know that I was not marked as a deserter, than to get two or three months' pay. I am no politician, nor neither do I know what politics you are, but if Old Abe does run again, and they get that bill passed in our Legislature to allow us poor soldiers to vote, I will give him a hoist. But I do not want to take up your time with nonsense. I will close.

Remaining very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. GRAHAM,
Battery G, Penn. Vols.

The report of Mr. Mühleck, one of the Relief Agents on the Potomac, contains some striking illustrations of the variety of the forms and degrees of suffering which we are called on to relieve—some of them touching enough, even to read of.

The rumors and apparent preparations for a move prevented me from leaving the store house to-day. But I would feel discontented, should I not mention that I have had the pleasure of doing good this Sunday afternoon. A young Sergeant of the 12th Massachusetts, pale and emaciated, stopped at our door, asking for some blackberry syrup. We had none; and he was quietly walking down the street, when I remarked that his weakness and prostration were so great that he could hardly walk. I called him back, and inquired what he was suffering from. He answered, from "chronic diarrhœa." He also told me that he was reported for discharge, but that he felt that unless the air of his home and a mother's care should very soon reach him, he would die. I gave him some cordial, filled his pockets with crackers and a piece of chocolate, and then he left the store.

He was deeply affected; I myself, hardly less than he.

At night fall, most of the 3d Corps passed through here. Quite a number of them, who felt weak and sick, stepped in and begged for some crackers, and in some instances, for stimulants. I complied with promptness and discernment. I had hardly sat down again to finish this report, when another fine young fellow from the 10th Vermont helped along by a Surgeon of his regiment, was brought in. The poor lad, in the darkness, had fallen down a high and steep embankment, fracturing his left arm, and probably his right fore arm. He was covered with dirt, and suffering intensely. George washed his face, while Norris rushed for bandages and rags, and I was helping the Surgeon in cutting his blouse and shirt off his body. I gave him some stimulants, and after he got examined and his arms partly dressed, I had him carried to the nearest hospital, (First Division.) His Surgeon, I add with great pleasure, was all care and kindness to him. Thus closes the first week of my new duties, although I had, previously to my connection with this Sanitary Commission, an idea of its work. Yet, I confess, I never appreciated the whole extent of its results and fruits. Happy do I feel, indeed, to be an instrument in thus dealing out the gifts of a grateful nation to her brave sons in the field.

Mr. Warner Johnson writes from the Brandy Station:

Our Lodge at Brandy Station has been found very useful to soldiers passing to and from the Army of the Potomac. One a wall tent, and two hospital tents, have been provided with bunks and supplied with abundant clothing. Since the 10th of January, one hundred and twenty soldiers found shelter for the night, who would otherwise have had the sky for their canopy, and no protection from the severity of the weather. About fifteen civilians, who had been benighted, have also been sheltered by us. Upon one occasion, a large number of artillery recruits reached here about dusk, whose brigades were scattered in various directions. In number about forty, they filled our three tents, and the floor of our main room; cooked their supper and breakfast, and left for their destination, well pleased with their accommodations. Last night about twenty soldiers filled our tents, and left this morning for their camps. We are enabled to save them much discomfort and suffering.

We find in the New Orleans *Era* of February 6, the following testimony as to the labors of our Agents in that quarter:

Dr. Blake, the efficient Agent of the Sanitary Commission, has fitted up the steamer Laurel Hill with conveniences for the transportation of sick and discharged soldiers to Cairo. It is his intention to furnish every man a comfortable cabin passage on this boat, and to this end has had the state rooms put in order, and supplied with new bedding, blankets, &c. In addition to this he has had bunks fitted up in the saloon capable of accommodating eighty-eight passengers. The table arrangements will admit of a large number to be seated at once. All the provisions, furniture, towels, bedding, cooking utensils, table furniture, &c., have been furnished by the Sanitary Commission, and are quite new.

The advantages of a cabin passage, with regularly cooked warm meals, on a steamboat to Cairo, over a deck passage by sea, are too obvious to need pointing out. The sick defender of the flag has found a friend in Dr. Blake, whom he will have reason to long remember and thank.

The Laurel Hill is a Government transport, and will bring freight to the Quartermaster on her return from Cairo, which, at present rates of freight, will more than pay her running expenses. It will be remembered that she was caught in a gale in the Gulf last September, in which she lost her smoke-stacks, and was damaged somewhat in her upper works. She has been thoroughly repaired and painted, and being a very staunch vessel, is in all respects as good as new. It was expected that she would leave for Cairo last night, under command of the experienced Captain Thomas, but it is likely that she will be detained until some time to-day.

And Mr. Bullard writes us, February 20th:

My communication with General Reynolds, through Dr. Stipp, has resulted quite as successfully as could have been anticipated. A camp of distribution has been organized, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Webb. The Soldiers' Home has been as fully transferred to my care, by a special order from Gen. Reynolds, as under the circumstances could be desired.

* * * * * *

The arrival of the Pension Agent, Mr. Seaton, and his clerk, was very opportune. He already has his office crowded. There will be more than he can do in a few days. We shall be obliged to get for him more clerks. This "Home," on account of its central position in this Department, where necessarily large numbers of discharged and furloughed men gather and sometimes wait for transportation, is destined to be one of the most important connected with the Commission. As the Pension Office is near the Home, and in the same building with the Special Relief Office, which is already pretty well known among officials, it will have every facility for a large work.

* * * * * *

Good Out of Evil.—On the last trip of the transport steamer Cahawba to this port, a party of soldiers, contrary to Army regulations, engaged in gambling. Col. Stephen Thomas, of the 8th Vermont Regiment, fearing trouble would arise from this evil practice, determined to initiate the soldiers, who were new recruits, into Army rules and benefit their suffering comrades at the same time. He confiscated all the money on the board, and on arriving at the city turned it over to Dr. Geo. A. Blake, Chief Agent of the Sanitary Commission in this Department. The funds seized amounted to $135, and will be used for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers. This is a practical illustration that sometimes "Good cometh out of evil."—*New Orleans Era, Feb.* 12.

THE COMMISSION IN EUROPE.

We gave some account in No. 6 of the BULLETIN of the formation in Paris of an "European Branch of the Sanitary Commission," owing to the exertions of Dr. McClintock, and expressed the hope that we should before very long begin to reap the fruits of its labors, in the shape of contributions from the American residents abroad. It will be seen from the following extract from a letter just received from the Secretary, Mr. Bowles, that these expectations already begin to be realized:

Enclosed I now beg leave to hand you bill of lading of one case of books—German, I suppose—which has been sent me by the Rev. L. S. Jacoby, of Bremen. In writing to the different German cities on the Continent, I mentioned that donations of German books would be acceptable, as we had so many of that nation in our army. I have another lot, which I expect to forward soon. You will also receive some boxes, which I shall ship this week, containing presents for the Metropolitan Fair from this city. If it can be managed, it is very desirable that these boxes be not opened at the Custom House, as it will be impossible for them to do so and return the goods without serious breakage. I shall give you complete lists of their contents, probably certified by our Consul, Mr. Bigelow. You will also receive some packages for the Fair, which are not sent through me, and are directed to private individuals who are to have tables at the said Fair. As Dr. Bellows' idea seems to be a Paris Table, perhaps it would be well for him to see these persons, and suggest that these be added to the general contribution from this city, and I think the ladies who receive them would expect an invitation to attend the table.

I have ordered two hundred and fifty cases of brandy, one dozen *litre* bottles each case, which will be ready in about ten days. We have chosen a different quality from that about which I last wrote, this costing in the neighborhood of f.2.50 per *litre*. The other was too new, and we were afraid to send it.

We have already commented upon the singular fact that, at the International Sanitary Conference recently held in Geneva, no mention was made of the United States Sanitary Commission; nor did, as far as we can judge from the report of the proceedings, any member of the Conference seem to be aware that there was any such body in existence. The diffusion amongst these gentlemen of information concerning the amount of labor we have already accomplished in the very field on which they are just entering, is one of the tasks which the new Branch promises to perform with great efficiency. Mr. Bowles has already commenced the distribution of our documents. He says, in the letter from which we have already quoted:

I likewise enclose you a copy of a letter received from M. J. Henri Dunant, (prominent in the Genevan Sanitary Congress,) which, you will observe, is very friendly in its tone. I shall learn if there is another Congress to be held, and when, in order that the Commission may send delegates, should they wish to. Some publications, also received from him, in which the labors of the United States Sanitary Commission are recognized, I will send with the other goods.

M. Dunant's letter is as follows:

[TRANSLATION.]

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., for which I cordially thank you.

I accept, with the liveliest gratitude, the offer which you make in behalf of your Committee to correspond with me, and to send me the statistical and other documents now in your possession, or which you may hereafter receive, concerning the operations of the Commission in the United States.

On my part, I shall take care to forward you all documents which I shall consider of a nature to interest you. The experience which you have acquired in America will be valuable to us; and, unfortunately, I fear we shall soon be obliged to put into practice in many countries of Europe, those ideas of humanity and of charity, the success of which we have all of us so much at heart.

I am rejoiced, sir, to have opened relations with you, and I beg to present my best thanks to your Committee.

Receive, sir, the expression of my high consideration and respectful esteem.

J. HENRI DUNANT,
Secretary of the International European Conference and Secretary of the Genevan International Committee.

GENEVA, *February* 12, 1864.

THE WORK OF "RELIEF."

MR. KNAPP reports concerning the "Relief Work"—"general" and "special"—of the Commission, during the month of January.

Although the hospitals have not been full, and there have been no important movements in the field, yet there has been found constant occasion for the services of the Agents of the Commission, and the aid thus rendered has met real needs.

The general hospitals have been visited once each week, or oftener, and their actual wants supplied, while the aim has been constantly kept in view to make both Surgeons and patients feel as little dependent as possible upon any outside help, but rely upon securing the supplies furnished by Government, and upon the proceeds of a well-regulated "Hospital Fund."

The regimental hospitals have been visited constantly by the "Field Relief Corps" stationed with the several armies.

For the *Army of the Potomac*, the report of Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector, will show you that his systematic method of work has aimed to keep him informed of the condition of all the regiments in that army; he embraces also in his care the troops in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, of Point Lookout, of Norfolk, and of Fortress Monroe.

From *Newbern, N. C.*, and *Beaufort, S. C.*, no regular reports for the month have been received, but letters from Dr. Page and Dr. Marsh indicate that the relief work of the Commission at both these stations has been conducted, as in months past, with faithful efficiency. It will probably be necessary to enlarge our work in Dr. Marsh's Department by the establishment of a "Home," and an Agency for Special Relief at Hilton Head, and perhaps at one other point in that vicinity. Dr. Marsh has requested to be furnished with a plan for establishing and conducting a "Home" or "Lodge" at that place. It will be sent to him.

From "*The Department of the Gulf*" the reports are quite full, and very satisfactory. They indicate increased zeal and efficiency on the part of all the Agents of the Commission there; and on the part of soldiers and officers a continued and grateful recognition of the good service rendered by Dr. Blake and his associates in labor.

These reports cover the month of January, but date back some of them into December. They give record of relief service rendered *during the past few weeks, to twenty-one different military stations by personal visit by our relief agents with stores, and also of supplies furnished to eleven other stations.* Among the places of larger importance are New Orleans, New Iberia, Brashear City, Baton Rouge, Port Hudson, Forts Pike, Pickens and Barrancas, Decrovas Point, Texas, and Brownsville.

* * * * *

The vegetables sent in such abundance by the Commission to New Orleans, for distribution, have proved of immense good. Other supplies have been promptly received by our Agents there in advance of needs. Dr. Blake makes an earnest appeal for a boat, whereby independent transportation can be secured to the Commission for carrying supplies to points where needs exists, but to which transportation is often with great difficulty secured. It is a question, whether, in case we fail to obtain such boat from Government, it will not be wise and right for the Commission to purchase, and place there a small steamboat for this service, especially in view of the call which will probably be made the coming Spring upon the Commission for supplies to be carried to various points from New Orleans as a base.

Arrangements have been completed by which an Agency of the Commission for obtaining pensions, back pay and bounty has been established in New Orleans; and an experienced man (Mr. Seaton, recently of the Pension Office,) with a clerk, has been appointed to the work there, with all possible facilities secured to them by the Commissioner of Pensions and by the Second Auditor.

In connection with this work, Dr. Blake, of the Sanitary Commission, Chief Inspector for the Department of the Gulf, has been appointed by the Commissioner of Pensions "Examining Surgeon."

A large and very important field for special relief service of this particular kind (pensions, back pay and bounty,) is opened in New Orleans, and the distance of that place from the usual sources of assistance and information, renders the soldiers, or their families, stationed there peculiarly liable to those unjust dealings of claim agents against which the Commission seek to guard all who need help and protection.

The branch of special relief work at New Orleans and vicinity, which embraces "Homes" and "Lodges," is very satisfactory. The "Home" at New Orleans itself has been regularly transferred by the Western Sanitary Commission to the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

At "Brashear City" a "Home" has been established, which is rendering large kindness to many way-worn soldiers. Arrangements are also made by which Lodges will be established wherever and as fast as the necessities of the Army in that region call for or admit of their establishment. All the *material* for fitting up such Homes are in waiting at the store house in New Orleans.

* * * * *

Provision is made to accumulate a somewhat large amount of *supplies at the receiving store house* in Washington, to meet, probably, demands made by the Spring campaigns.

During this month no opportunity has been offered for the Commission to forward supplies to the prisoners at Richmond.

* * * * *

The Hospital Directory continues its kindly service, with constantly increasing facilities for usefulness.

MY EXPERIENCE OF THE GREAT FAIR.

I am no fabulous personage, neither a traveling sunbeam, nor a future New Zealander, nor one of the two horsemen who might have been seen coming over a hill, nor Robinson Crusoe, nor a Bourbon among us, nor an intelligent and reliable gentleman just escaped from Richmond.

My name is Watts. My wife married a Watts—and so that must be my true name. The story I shall tell is equally true. Some tales are admired because they abound in uncommon incidents, strange personages, original thoughts. But I have heard it said that the greatest productions of genius address themselves at once to the common experience of mankind. The present is one of those productions. On reading the first sheets to a select party of friends the other night, I was overwhelmed by their exclamations of astonishment and indignation. Jones, who lives at 152; Spriggs, who resides at 148; the charming widow in 154, and the crusty bachelor of 146 (all residents, you perceive, of our block), charged me with the unwarrantable publication of their own private experiences. I quieted their turbulence with one remark: "My friends," said I, "in regard to the Sanitary Fair, all good people feel and act alike. Portraying, therefore, in this respect, the history of a single virtuous soul, I have held a mirror to all virtuous souls." They breathed assent—all save Jones, who muttered "humbug!" but finding himself unsupported, even by the crusty bachelor, relapsed into cynic silence.

Not being one of those distinguished citizens who provided the preliminary $70,000 for the Fair, I noticed the effects of its approach first of all in my wife. We are all young folks, and our family consists of one remarkable boy. My wife had always had a weakness for worsteds, and of late she had lavished the products of her skill on that extraordinary child. Inasmuch as Susan was not extravagant in other respects, I had hitherto paid without a murmur her worsted bills, though in some families the introduction of so much zephyr would certainly have produced a storm. But now I saw with surprise that operations were in progress for which the existence of that inimitable babe was no adequate excuse. Certainly, an infant six months old, with Afghans, two breakfast capes, eight sacks, two hoods, an opera cloak, a pair of leggins, a red Sontag, a brown ditto, a pin cushion, ten pairs of socks, and knit underclothes innumerable and unmentionable, was sufficiently provided for. It was, therefore, with awe and wonder that I saw the beginning of a huge Afghan, which assumed, as it proceeded, the hues and features of the Star Spangled Banner. Now, I knew that a certain General, on the occasion of a serenade, had brought out upon a balcony his wife and baby, the latter wrapped in the American flag; and I remembered that my Susan reading of the circumstance in the newspaper, had been much impressed with the beauty and sublimity of the idea. I felt a fearful presentiment that she was about to try its effect upon our infant. I knew that my military reputation would not justify such a step. To be sure, I joined in the great Pennsylvania campaign, and sojourned a month in the hospital with other rheumatic warriors in the gallant —th; but all this did not prevent me from saying on the present occasion: "My dear, what are you doing? I hope that isn't for the baby!"

Susan having a gift of eloquence equal, I think, to Miss Dickenson, replied impromptu: "Yes, love! isn't it beautiful! and Matilda is going to make one just like it; and we are going to have a table; and I am on the committee, and so is that hateful Miss Jewsharp—and I want fifty dollars to buy materials—and, O, Augustus, you must write one hundred nice letters in poetry, you know—Mrs. Duffin says so—and all your grandfather's Revolutionary clothes and things, you know—and—"

"Susan!" I said suddenly, in my most impressive tone, "*will* you have the goodness to tell me what you are talking about?"

Thrown a little off her guard, she replied: "Why, don't you know! It's the Sanitary Fair!" For this direct and almost manly reply, I rewarded her with a green-backed fifty. This was the beginning of the beginning. As for the end, I dimly foresee it, and long for it, but it tarries afar off.

Thank Heaven, I am a philanthropist and a patriot. I do not object to being bled for soldiers, who are daily bleeding for us all. It will be seen, as my narrative proceeds, that beneath a graceful exterior of trifling mirthfulness, or even of satire, I carry a remarkably large and generous heart. In this respect I resemble the lamented Thackeray.—*From the Drum Beat, published by the Brooklyn Sanitary Fair.*

THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL.

The first number of a new military periodical has reached us. It appeared on the 17th February, under the style of *The Soldiers' Journal*, and is published at the Convalescent Camp near Alexandria, Va., under the auspices of Miss Amy M. Beadley, the admirable and efficient Superintendent of the Relief Agency of the Sanitary Commission at that important center. It aims at supplying the thousands of men assembled there with wholesome reading matter, and their friends and the people with information of their well-being and well-doing. This first number promises well, and the undertaking deserves support. Periodicals of this class should be collected and preserved, as material for the future histories of this great and memorable War. Twenty years hence stray numbers of them will be worth much more than their weight in gold.

WHO EATS THE SANITARY SUPPLIES?

The following testimony from Dr. Townshend is worthy of attention:

ST. LOUIS, MO., *February* 8, 1864.

MY DEAR WIFE—Your letter of the 1st inst., referring to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, was received to-day, and I reply immediately that you may have my testimony to use whenever it will encourage those whose hearts and hands are already in the work, or answer the objections of those who have listened to adverse reports.

And let me remind you at the outset, that my opportunities for observing are not simply those of a common soldier or line officer of equal rank, or Army Surgeons even, but much better; for, as Medical Inspector, I have wider range than either of them, and nothing else to do but look after what affects the health and comfort of the men, including, of course, food, clothing, shelter, surgical and medical treatment and nursing. I have seen not less than 25,000 sick and wounded men in hospitals, and have therefore many opportunities of judging of the doings of the Sanitary Commission, and now I will give you some of the conclusions at which I have arrived.

First.—I think it is far the best medium through which to send material comforts to the sick of the Army, and greatly preferable to State or local agencies. The Sanitary Commission is unitary and simple, embraces the whole field, and therefore overlooks nothing and duplicates nothing. Where would a State agent find his troops? In perhaps twenty different army corps in every Rebel State. A local agent, who cannot see the whole field, and don't know what has been sent here or there, cannot know where succor is most needed, and he lacks the facilities for communication and transportation.

Second.—The Agents of the Commission are not paid out of funds which you in Ohio contributed, nor do they consume the eatables which Aid Societies have sent. The salaried agents are paid from a California fund devoted to that purpose. I have often taken meals with the Agents of the Commission at their stations, and have invariably had set before me only what the market afforded, or the Agent's personal resources could supply.

Third.—I have no evidence that line officers ever use Sanitary stores, for they are never put under their charge, nor can they obtain possession of them by purchase or otherwise.

Sanitary stores designed for distribution among the sick of a hospital, are put under the control of the Surgeon in charge.

That stores, while in charge of the Surgeon, may in some instances have been misapplied, or used, or stolen, is possible, as of the stores belonging to the Government, but that the Surgeon in charge of any hospital has shared in or connived at any such misapplication, I have never heard charged by any person who had the means of knowing.

Two months since I visited (without notice,) the best hospital in Knoxville. Soon after I arrived the Surgeon's dinner-bell rang. I was invited to dinner. On the table was a clean table-cloth, and clean plates, and knives, and forks, and *pork*, and *bran bread*, and nothing else. The bread had not sufficient flour in it to hold it together; its cohesion appeared to depend on a little molasses used in the manufacture. I was helped bountifully. We all ate heartily, and no apologies were offered. On examining afterwards the food of several of the patients, I found them using good bread and crackers, and on inquiry learned there was not then (a few days after Longstreet left,) enough flour or army bread for all, and therefore the surgeons, the nurses and the patients, whose diseases would permit, used the bran bread, while the fine flour bread was reserved for those who had affections of the bowels. Other patients I found using garden vegetables of various kinds, and I learned that the supply being very short these were reserved for cases inclining to scurvy and other cases specially needing them; the surgeons, the nurses and patients who had nearly recovered could not indulge in such luxuries. Do you think that such Medical Officers would rob the sick soldier of a few delicacies that might be sent by his friends? A few days later I had the satisfaction of seeing two hundred and fifty packages of Sanitary stores, in addition to Government supplies sent from Chattanooga to the hospitals at Knoxville, and I have no fears that the doctors ate them up.

But why is it that returned soldiers do not more frequently express their gratitude for the comforts sent them? Because in most instances Sanitary stores are not distributed to the men directly by the Agent, but indirectly through the Surgeon in charge, and this is the only safe rule. Thousands of men in hospitals are wearing socks, drawers, shirts, and lying on beds, fed with food, and have their wounds bound up with bandages, all from the Sanitary Commission, without a suspicion of the fact. The Sanitary Agent tells the Surgeon what he has—the Surgeon tells the Agent what he wants, and it is put at his disposal to be given out as required. The Sanitary Agent, in his frequent visits to the hospitals, sees that his contribu-

tions are properly used; while the recipient himself may not know, or may not be in a condition to know, whether what he eats and drinks and wears comes from Uncle Sam himself, or some dear aunt or pretty cousin.

But, at the same time, scores of shirking loafers who are not sick, but pretend to a lame back, or a weak stomach, or fainting spells, are constantly endeavoring to sponge something out of Sanitary Agents; and if they fail, as they usually do, for these cowardly, grunting *melingerers* are easily recognized, they go away prepared to tell stories about the misapplication of Sanitary stores.

In short, I am satisfied that the Sanitary Commission is a well organized and well managed institution, and that it is the best possible agent for the distribution of what home fingers can prepare for the soldier.

I think, also, that for the coming Spring campaign we shall need all that can be raised, and I don't believe we shall need any thing afterwards.

As ever, yours,

N. S. Townshend.

RELIEF AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

From February 15th to February 24th, the stores and supplies issued to the Army from the New York office of the Commission, under the direction of the Standing Committee, have been as follows:

Sheets	603	Slippers	768
Socks	3,079	Farina	447
Bed Sacks	500	Dried Fried	42
Pillow Cases	956	Beef Stock	906
Shirts	4,781	Jars Jelly	879
Drawers	4,098	Cordial, &c	1,035
Blankets	726	White Sugar	200
Towels	3,993	Pickles	2,150
Handkerchiefs	2,644	Cond. Milk	5,568
Mittens	638		

These have been forwarded to the points at which the wants of the Army have seemed most urgent. The largest portion has gone to Charleston Harbor, to North Carolina, to New Orleans, and to the Associate Secretary at Louisville, to be used under his direction, for the aid and comfort of our forces at Chattanooga and Knoxville. For this work the Central Treasury maintains, at heavy cost, steam transportation on the Western waters.

The estimated value of these supplies is $23,851.88.

They have been mostly drawn from the depot of the New York Branch, (the admirable and efficient Women's Central Association of Relief,) but a considerable portion of them has been necessarily purchased, and has been paid for by the Central Treasury. It is hardly necessary to observe, that the foregoing list does not include such supplies (doubtless of at least equal amount,) that have been drawn by the Commission from its other Branch Depots, East and West, during the same period.

The *garden seeds* that have been sent to the South and Southwest are to be used in the establishment of vegetable gardens at Hilton Head and other points, that will supply our men with anti-scorbutics, and thus save the heavy cost of shipping cargoes of potatoes and onions to the South, and the risk of spoiling on the way.

HOSPITAL SUPPLIES.

Washington, *February* 1, 1864.

F. N. Knapp,

Associate Secretary:

Sir—I herewith send you the report of Fresh Hospital Supply Department of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, for the month ending January 31, 1864:

Butter, print	586	lbs	Squash	1½	doz
" roll	4,873	"	Quails	½	"
" tub	4,371	"	Herbs	451	bch
Mutton	9,788	"	Sage	5	"
Lamb	102	"	Celery	25	"
Poultry	4,064	"	Oyster Plant	20	"
Veal	637	"	Lemons	6	bxs
Lard	240	"	Apples	72	bus
Fresh Fish	124	"	Turnips	234½	"
Salt "	4,000	"	Carrots	18	"
Pork	245½	"	Onions	117¼	"
Dry Apples	1,632	"	Beets	210	"
" Peaches	10	"	Potatoes	311⅔	"
Dressed Turkey	337¾	"	Rutabaga	36	"
" Duck	68	"	Parsnips	15	"
" Geese	16½	"	Sweet Potatoes	54	"
Eggs	3,912½	doz	Oats	12½	"
Cabbage	3,638	hds	Live Chickens	113	prs
Oysters	5	gall	Prairie "	1	"
Cranberries	962	qts	Mackerel	½	bbl
Ale	2	bbls	Ale	10	doz
Sausages	15	lbs			

The amount of weight of the above supplies as taken from bills of Adams Express Co., is 129,071 lbs. or 64 tons, 1,071 lbs.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. B. Clark,

Superintendent.

THE "SOLDIERS' HOMES" IN TENNESSEE.

During the four weeks ending January 30, there were received at the "Soldiers' Lodge," Memphis, 1,096 men, from seventeen States; 3,926 meals were furnished, and 1,205 lodgings. The average number admitted per day was: the first week, 90; the second week, —; the third week, 91, and the fourth week, 116. Papers were corrected for 14; 16 were aided in drawing pay, and 7 were sent to hospitals.

At the "Soldiers' Home," Nashville, during the same time, there have been admitted 2,478 from twenty different States; 9,818 meals have been furnished, and 3,906 lodgings. The average number admitted during the first week was 286; the second, 191; the third, 228; fourth, 195. Papers were corrected for 3, and 113 were aided in drawing pay.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TARRYTOWN, *February*, 1854.

MR. EDITOR—Tarrytown, not the least among the many charming places along the borders of the Hudson River, is surely, also, not the last on the list of villages noted for a sincere and devoted patriotism.

The spot where Arnold's treason came to shame and confusion does still, it seems to us, glory in an atmosphere of a pure and earnest love for our country, and an *unconditional* loyalty to our Government.

We were impressed with this conviction when some weeks since we were permitted to attend an entertainment given for the benefit of our brave, but sick and wounded soldiers, and under the auspices of the "Soldiers' Aid Society of Tarrytown." This society, numbering some seventy members—a branch of that giant and sublime charity, the "Sanitary Commission," which latter scatters its blessings over half a continent—is, we grant, but a twig as compared with many sister societies in the same glorious cause; but one which, from the character of the women engaged in it, we are convinced is bearing healthy and plentiful fruits. We hope we may be pardoned for employing the good old Saxon word *women* in this connection, for we believe that every true Northern *woman* is loyal to her heart's center. We can imagine a fine lady, of the genuine Flora McFlimsey pattern, to be a traitress; but a true-hearted woman, "a perfect woman, nobly planned," with a copperhead, except in the shape of a husband, would be as monstrous a creation as the Grecian Sphinx, and one that would propound to us a riddle as deep and as unanswerable as did, it is said, the above-mentioned monstrosity of old.

We can furnish no better evidence of the working efficacy of the "Soldiers' Aid Society" of this place, than to mention that it is under the management of Mrs. Wm. S. Wilson, as President; Mrs. Chas. Rhind, Treasurer; and Miss Christina Wilson, Corresponding Secretary—as able an administration as may be found in the land.

The pleasant musical entertainment, which we intended to make the subject of our communication, was held on the evening of the 22d ultimo, in the hall owned by the Messrs. Smith & Morris, which gentlemen, with praiseworthy and patriotic liberality, gave the use of the house free of all and every expense. The performers were Mr. D. D. Griswold, the well known and pleasing ballad singer; and a Mr. Jacobsen, (a resident musician, we believe,) assisted by three of his fair pupils. Mr. Griswold's rendering of several Scotch and Irish ballads was certainly most admirable, and elicited a hearty applause from the large and decidedly appreciative audience. The instrumental performers did themselves fair credit, and had it been otherwise, it would be very ungracious, indeed, to criticise where all had so generously volunteered their services. Mr. Wilson, in the course of the evening, offered a vote of thanks to Messrs. Griswold and Jacobsen, which was carried by acclamation; responding to which, Mr. Jacobsen's remarks led us to infer that he is not a lover of copperheads.

The *net* proceeds of the concert were $80, which sum, under the judicious direction of Mrs. Wilson, will furnish many comforts for our gallant but suffering soldiers. God bless the noble men, women and children engaged in the patriotic work.

NESBOCAJ.

THE VITAL AND SANITARY STATISTICS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE FRENCH TROOPS, UNDER LIKE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE AND LOCALITY.

[Paper read before the British Association, August, 1863.]

If the progress of intelligence and advance of civilization have widened the source of some diseases, by developing to a greater extent the fatal results of vicious habits and disorderly passions among the multitude, some compensation for such will be found in the present advanced state of the several sciences, and more particularly of preventive and curative medicine, to which statistics have been successfully applied, in proof of the deductions that are made in regard to health. The practical application of the precepts of *hygiène*, by removing the sources of many diseases, has rendered them less frequent, and less fatal, in all climates, than they proved to be in former ages. Since the beginning of the present century, a remarkable and advantageous change has been thus effected; and, through such means the ravages of epidemic diseases, and the mortality-rate of prisons, hospitals, and poor houses, existing for the use of our civil population, have been greatly diminished. Thus the disturbing influence of burial grounds, filthy and undrained localities in London, of the present seasons, and overcrowding on the life of man, which gave rise to prevailing diseases from the plague years 1593, 1603, 1625, 1636, and 1665 to that of 1838, have been so far ameliorated, according to the second report of the Registrar-General, as to cause a reduction of the mean mortality from 25 to 2.81 per cent.* In proportion also as the salubrious condition of London has been improved, the distribution of deaths, among the various periods of the year, has been more and more equalized, till the maximum of mortality for late years has ceased to correspond, as formerly, to the hot months of July, August, and September.

* "Second Report of the Registrar-General," p. 89, London, 1840.

What has been so happily accomplished for the improved health and comfort of our civil population, can in a great measure be secured for our soldiers, both at home and abroad. The practical measures carried out after the report of the Commissioners, appointed in 1857, to examine into the condition and administration of our army hospitals, and into the operation of regulations in force to prevent disease in our army, both at home and abroad, have been followed by a reduction in the rate of mortality of our infantry at home, from 15.5 per 1,000 effective men in 1828, to 8.77 in 1859 and 1860.* Dr. T. Graham Balfour's report, for this last year, has also stated the mortality of infantry of the line at home, for fifteen years, 1839-53 inclusive, to have been 16.9 per 1,000. But for the credit of the medical department of the Royal Army, the fact must not be passed over, that the army statistical reports, begun in 1835 by Mr. Henry Marshall, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, while associated with Lieutenant Tulloch, 45th Regiment, (now Major General Sir A. M. Tulloch, K.C.B.,) and continued by the latter, with the assistance of Dr. T. Graham Balfour (now Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals,) first called attention to the condition of the soldier in regard to health, and the various deteriorating agencies which affected it. These reports led to the expediency of establishing the Registrar-General's Department, through which accurate information, on the extent and causes of mortality among the civil population, has been obtained. In 1838 the Commissioners' report, on the sanitary condition of the British Army, was published and laid before Parliament, followed by that on the organization of the Indian Army in 1859; and in this, the present year, 1863, we are favored with the very valuable and elaborate report of the Commissioners, appointed in 1859, to inquire into the sanitary state of the army in India.

In endeavoring to bring before you a short digest of the important information, collected in these volumes, regarding the influence of hot climates on the health of Europeans, and more particularly India, I propose to make free use of these reports, and of the statistical, sanitary, and medical reports of the Army Medical Department, for the years 1859 and 1860; as well as the collateral information, obtainable from the various reports on the mortality and sickness of English troops in India, published in the several volumes of the Statistical Society's *Journal*. For the facts on which a comparison may be made between the sanitary statistics of English and French troops, in hot climates, I shall chiefly have recourse to those supplied by M. Boudin in his "Traité de Géographie et de Statistique Médicales, et des Maladies Endémiques," Paris, 1857, and in his other publications on this subject.

We can scarcely overestimate the importance of ascertaining the causes and extent of losses sustained by armies, even in their native country, and in times of peace, from the ravages of disease; inasmuch as we cannot otherwise determine the expense of efficiently maintaining them, both at home and abroad. Independently of the annual decrements in armies, produced by various contingencies, as the good and bad materials that compose them, their ever-varying conditions under service, according to time and place, we must endeavor to fix the rates of their losses from disease, according to age and climate, and their ever variable reductions by war and invaliding. Military service, when performed under apparently most salubrious conditions of both locality and climate, whether at home or abroad, is generally found associated with a higher rate of mortality than that incident to the indigenous inhabitants of the soil; and as this difference is not so strongly marked among officers, subject to like climatic influences, as among the non-commissioned officers and men, it is for the most part produced by a greater amount of intemperance and other vicious habits among the latter, and by overcrowding in the barracks. The proof of this will be manifest from the following ratios of mortality among the civil male population of England and Wales generally, of the officers of the Royal Artillery serving in England during the year 1860, and of the infantry of the line from 1839 to 1853:

	Mean mortality, per 1,000.
Civil male population, England and Wales generally*.	9.28
Officers of the foot artillery, at home, 1860.	7.04
Infantry of the line, at home, for fifteen years, 1839-53	16.8

The proportion of mortality among the civil population of France, between 20 and 30 years of age, rises to 12 per 1,000; that of the infantry of the army at home, 22.3 per 1,000,† and of the non-commissioned officers 10.8.

Since the sickness and sanitary condition of armies, therefore, may be derivable from mixed causes of locality, overcrowding in barracks, meteorological climate, dietetic

* The former is the death-rate of troops serving for thirty-two years, from 1797 to 1828. See Boudin's "Statistique de la Mortalité des Armées de Terre et de Mer," Paris, 1846, p. 2, and Dr. Balfour's "Statistical Report for 1860," p. 13, where the mean of the two years is as stated.

* The data for England and Wales generally, have been obtained from Dr. Farr's life table, in the twelfth volume of the Registrar-General's "Reports," and from the "Army Statistical and Sanitary Report," 1860, p. 141, and Table 55 in Appendix to the Sanitary Commissioners' Report, "On the Regulations affecting the Sanitary Condition of the Army," London, 1858, p. 476.

† M. Boudin's "Statistique Médicale des Armées," p. 8, and "Statistique de l'Etat Sanitaire et de la Mortalité des Armées de Terre et de Mer," Paris, 1846, p. 16.

errors, and vice, it is necessary to carefully sift and separate such mixed causes, and assign to each their due influence, in the production of increased ratios of military sickness and mortality. Much may be otherwise laid to the deteriorating influences of climate, which are only effects of insalubrious localities, overcrowding, dietetic errors, and vicious habits.

Sickness and increased ratios of mortality among European masses, removed to new climates, seem inseparably associated with smaller numerical degrees of latitude, as we advance nearer the Equator; and even in France we find that, for the provinces of its northern latitudes, the average mortality is 1 in 44, but for those of the south 1 in 33. How much more then must such averages increase among English troops, serving in the tropical climates of India, or of French troops in other hot climates, under like insalubrious conditions. The localities occupied by either, and which come properly under the denomination of hot climates, lie from the Equator to the thirtieth and sometimes the thirty-fifth degree of north or south latitude. In Asia, and regions of the south, these are India on this side and beyond the Ganges, Ceylon, Arabia, Persia, and Cochin China; in North Africa, Algeria, and on the west Senegal; and to the south, the African islands of Réunion, Mauritius, Bourbon, and Madagascar; and in South America, Guiana, the French Antilles, or Martinique and Guadeloupe, and the English Antilles, or islands in the Gulf of Mexico, with all that part of our possessions called the West Indies.

It is not less evident, from Dr. Forry's report of the sickness and mortality in the army of the United States, that the ratios of military mortality in that country increase, as we proceed from the north to the south:

North.....	18.8	deaths for	1,000	effective strength.
South.....	52 3	"	"	"
Center	44.2	"	"	"

The causes for such increase being the combined insalubrious agencies of increased temperature and malarious localities. The greatly increased proportion of *miasmatic endemic diseases*, which we find admitted into hospitals from such places, clearly indicates that they have their origin more from endemic influences of locality, than the peculiar meteorological condition of the climate. It was for these reasons I stated in my evidence before the Royal Commission, appointed in 1859, "that in *tropical* "*latitudes* the mortality must be higher "than in *temperate latitudes*, even after all "that may be done for the troops by the "very best prophylactic measures, both *en*-"*demic* and *dietetic*."

After these preliminary observations on the mortality and sanitary state of English and French troops, employed in their native country, I proceed to briefly consider their relative mortality, and sanitary condition, when serving in *tropical climates*, more particularly India; and for the state of the former, past and present, I cannot do better than refer for information to the "Report of the Royal Sanitary Commission," just published.

The ratios of mortality, deduced from given numbers of men, are at once the measure of their lives and the healthiness of the places they inhabit. They differ for the different countries of Europe, and for the localities, according to the greater or less salubrity of particular regions and their geological formation; and are always lower for the indigenous inhabitants of the soil, than for those who migrate there from other countries. Those for Europeans, exposed to the climatic vicissitudes of military life, and other contingencies of service, show an increase, in proportion to the proximity of residence to the Equator, and unremoved sources of endemic disease there, as bad water, bad drainage, filthy locality, overcrowded and ill-constructed barracks, in combination with dietetic errors, vice, intemperance, and want of suitable clothing, occupation, and exercise, according to the conditions of climate and seasons. It would be quite impossible, amidst such extended subjects of inquiry, to select more than a tithe of them for illustration on this occasion; and I shall, therefore, confine myself to the three following heads:

1st. Mortality, and other ratios of decrement of the effective strength of European troops, serving in India, and other hot climates.

2d. The sanitary ameliorations of the sickness and mortality effected of late years.

3d. The sanitary measures still necessary for application to English troops in India.

According to Table I, copied from No. 10 in the Appendix to the "Report of the "Commissioners on the Sanitary State of "the Army in India," the average rate of military mortality there, for eighty-six years, is given at 67.9 per 1,000; being at the same time stated, in the body of the report at 69 in 1,000 during the present century. The following are the words of the report:* "The deaths in the fifty-six years, "1800-56, among all the Company's non-"commissioned officers and men, including "invalids, in India, amounted to 40,420 out "of an aggregate of 583,820 years of life, "obtained by adding up the average an-"nual strength in those years; so the an-"nual rate of mortality has been 69 in 1,000 "during the present century.

"The mortality rate was as high as 134 "in the first Mahratta War, and it was as "low as 41 in 1852. It was high again in

* "Report and Précis of Evidence," p. 18.

"the years of mutiny, and it has been subsequently lower than the Indian standard. From the rate of 55 in 1770-99, the rate rose to 85 in the thirty years, 1800-29; and the mortality fell to 58 in the twenty-seven years, 1830-56; so that the death-rate of the British soldier, since the first occupation of the country down to the present day, has oscillated round 69 per 1,000."

TABLE I.—*Annual rate of Mortality in periods of years, from* 1770 *to* 1856, *in each of the Indian Presidencies.*

Years.	Deaths Annually to 1,000 Strength. Bengal.	Bombay.	Madras.	India.	Remarks.
1770–1800.	70.6	78.2	37.5	54.7	The siege of Seringapatam and conquest of Mysore.
1800–10...	91.5	84.5	54.8	73.7	General war in the Carratic.
'10–20...	68.7	99.6	97.0	84.8	Conquest of Dutch and French islands, Mahratta War, and cholera.
'20–30...	84.5	97.9	95.2	90.7	
'30–40...	60.1	46.3	55.5	55.7	
'40–50...	79.5	68.3	43.5	65.4	
'50–56...	67.8	31.1	44.3	50.7	Burmese War.
Total.....	....	....	....	67.9	

Note.—This table is copied from Table 10 of the Précis of the "Commissioners' Report of the Sanitary State of the Army in India," London, 1863, p. 178.

TABLE II.—*The Mortality of the French Army in Hot Climates, except Algeria, for ten years, from* 1838 *to* 1847, *is thus distributed in ratios per* 1,000.

Years.	Martinique	Guadeloupe.	Guiana.	Senegal.	Réunion.	Average.
1838.....	79.1	192.6	48.0	152.5	32.4	110.6
'39.....	165.2	158.8	25.0	43.1	25.5	117.4
'40.....	103.5	156.9	19.1	65.5	20.0	98.4
'41.....	102.8	129.5	39.5	75.2	84.8	98.8
'42.....	86.8	42.1	26.5	62.0	30.5	52.1
1843.....	103.2	68.9	29.8	82 5	45.5	73.3
'44.....	78.0	72.1	19.2	66.2	28.1	58.8
'45.....	53.3	45.6	19.2	41.3	13.5	38.2
'46.....	93.6	25.6	16.6	27.6	19.7	37.4
'47.....	60.3	28.0	12.5	38.9	25.5	37.2
Mean.....	90.4	89.0	25.3	61.7	30.5	69.5

It is quite true that, in this next table for French troops in tropical climates, a like average of 69.5 per 1,000 is given; and the contrast is remarkable to show how much the rate is caused by hot climates and localities, and is not chiefly caused there by intemperance and vicious habits; a conclusion long since arrived at by Dr. Edward Balfour's statistics and observations on the means of maintaining troops in health, read before the Statistical Section of this Association, at Swansea, in August, 1848.* It is with earnestness he protests against partial deductions on this subject, and says: "Exertions solely devoted to check intemperance, even if successful, can only palliate, but never remove, the evils that spring from climate. "It may, likewise, by withdrawing attention from one great, and I believe the "greatest cause of sickness, the noixous influence of particular localities, tend to retard the day, which I hope to see, when "healthy sites having been selected for "cantonments, the English soldier shall enjoy, in India, almost as good health as in "his native country." There can be hardly a difference of opinion as to the important part vice and intemperance play, in increasing the sickness and mortality of English soldiers abroad, and for the imperative necessity "of discontinuing the sale of "spirits in the canteens of India," and of adapting the soldier's diet to season and latitude. Still these unremoved sources of the sickness and mortality there, are not the main causes of the increased ratios of both; as Miss Nightingale's summary of the evidence, in the stational returns, proves† that the miasmatic diseases of fevers, diarrhœa, cholera, and dysentery, are produced under elevated temperature, by bad water, misplaced lavatories and cesspools, bad drainage, filthy bazars, and overcrowding in barracks, huts, and sick wards.

But reverting to the mortality-rate, 69 per 1,000, as being hitherto the normal one for sickness and disease in India, it is scarcely a true representation of the deduction that should be drawn from the facts collected in the various statistical tables, published in the Appendix to the Commissioners' own Report, sufficient allowance not being made for the increased casualties of war, cholera, and invaliding, during the period of fifty-six years, 1800-56, assumed for the basis of some of the calculations in the report. Of these fifty-six years, twenty-five, including the Sikh War, 1845-46, and the Punjaub campaign, 1848-49, were periods of war and cholera; this last disease, according to Inspector-Gen. Burke's Indian returns, 1826-32, having for these six years increased the mortality 11.5 per

* "*Journal* of the Statistical Society," vol. xii, p. 34, 1849.

† "Royal Commissioners' Report, vol. i, folio, p. 347.

1,000 of the effective strength.* Besides the average difference of mortality, between the war-rate and that of peace, or 27 per 1,000, as shown in the following table for Madras troops, not having been deducted, while the rate of invaliding in India is included, and thought of no importance, the assumed average of death, and decrements from natural causes, is thus raised to 69. It was not without good reason, therefore, that the Secretary of State for India, in his place in the House of Commons, the 23d of July last, said, "that the

TABLE III.—*Madras Troops.*

Years.	Service.	Number of Years.	Number of Deaths.	Average Annual Mean Strength.	Annual Average Number of Deaths.	Ratio per 1,000 of Deaths to Mean Strength.
	WAR.					
1793–98	Carnatic	6	1,549	5,696	258	49
'99–1800	Mysore and conquered countries	2	1,548	6,967	774	111
1801–5	General war in the Carnatic, conquered countries, and the Deccan	5	3,691	8,355	738	88
'10–11	French and Dutch islands	2	1,844	13,328	922	69
'17–19	Pindarie War in the Deccan, and Malwa in Hindostan	3	2,993	13,585	997	73
'24–26	Burmah	3	3,646	10,144	1,215	119
	Total	21	15,271	8,796	727	82
	PEACE.					
1806–9	Peace	4	2,645	9,318	661	70
'12–16	Marching	5	3,460	12,133	692	57
'20–23	Peace	4	2,468	10,916	617	56
'27–38	"	12	6,221	10,660	518	48
	Total	25	14,794	10,781	592	55

"general conclusion as to the mortality, "being based on facts going far back, does "not afford a very good index of the sani-"tary state of the Indian Army at the pres-"ent moment."† When we turn to table IV in the Appendix of the Report, in which the rates of mortality for periods of service in the three presidencies, 1847-56, are given, we find that 51.2 per 1,000, inclusive of other casualties, was the average annual mortality of the late East India Company's European troops for those ten years. It is stated, in a foot note to the table, that the mortality for this period was considerably below the previous average in Madras and Bombay; but it is doubtless a more close approximation to the true rate of the mortality in India, for the last twenty-six years, than the one taken for the basis of the Sanitary Commissioners' Report. In Dr. T. G. Balfour's summary of the health of the Royal Army previous to 1859,* the following two tables give the rates for the three presidencies:

	1830-37.	1838-56.
Madras	52.2 per 1,000.	41.5 per 1,000.
Bombay	33.1 "	60.9 "
Bengal	44.5 "	76.2 "
Average	43.3 "	59.5 " (for 26 years.)

The mean of these two tables being 51.4, or the average mortality of the late East India Company's European forces, as given in the table of the report before quoted. Additional proof of this average being nearer the true one, for late years, than that assumed in the Commissioners' Report, may be drawn from the rate per cent. of invaliding for fifteen years' service.

Among the effective non-commissioned officers and men of the late Company's European forces, during the years 1847-56, as given in Table IV; and which rate, 27.8, deducted from 64.3, the mean casualty-rate of the last twenty-five years, 1838-62, inclusive of invaliding and cholera, would leave the normal death-rate of late years for India 36.5 per 1,000: the mean death-rate of our European troops in the three presidencies from 1850-54, being only 40.4.†

According to that table, the rate per cent. for deaths and discharges, among men who had served ten to fifteen years, is 5 28 per cent.; which, when raised for 1,000, would give 52.8 as the mortality-rate. In the same table 2.78 is given as the rate per cent. of invaliding at the above period of service, and when this is raised for 1,000 it gives the other casualties of service, 27.8, the difference, as already shown, between the war and the peace rates of mortality in India, previous to the year 1838. Perfect reliance cannot then, I think, be placed on the returns of the East India Company's troops, prior to this year, as the mortality-rates obtained from them include many abnormal casualties of service.

But descending from general statistical principles, for securing trustworthy con-

*Quoted by M. Boudin, p. 52 of his "Etat Sanitaire et "Mortalité des Armées de Terre et de Mar," Paris, 1846.
†"Times" newspaper of the 24th July, 1863, p. 7.

* "Statistical, Sanitary, and Medical Reports of the "British Army for the Year 1860," pp. 133 and 138, London, 1862

† This is the mean taken from the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the organization of the Indian Army, presented to Parliament in 1859; and has been quoted by the "Army Statistical Report, 1860," at p. 111. A well written article, in the "Times of India," September 9th, 1863, says, "A total mortality of 2,360 "men, upon a strength of 73,000, gives about 32 per 1,000 "as the average of all India; the Commissioners make "it 70; and we are persuaded that, if their figure be "divided by 2, the result will give about the right aver-"age."

TABLE IV.—*The Casualties in the effective Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Local European Forces in India during the years* 1847-56.

Years of Service.	Strength. (Years of Life.)	Casualties. Deaths. (D.)	Casualties. Invaliding. (I.)	Casualties. D. & I.	Casualties. All Causes.	Rate per cent. Deaths. (D.)	Rate per cent. Invaliding. (I.)	Rate per cent. D. & L.	Rate per cent. All Causes.
1	14.390	938	45	983	1,547	6.52	.31	6.83	10.75
1–2.....	11.630	623	88	711	1,085	5.36	.75	6.11	9.32
2–3.....	9.220	518	83	601	872	5.62	.90	6.52	9.45
3–4.....	9.530	470	121	591	907	4.93	1.27	6.20	9.51
4–5.....	10.120	446	128	574	871	4.41	1.26	5.67	8.60
5–10.....	41.860	1,968	468	2,436	4,048	4.70	1.12	5.82	9.67
10–15.....	21.440	1,131	597	1,728	2,949	5.28	2.78	8.06	13.75
15–20.....	9.976	429	598	1,027	1,424	4.30	6.00	10.30	14.28
20 and upwards.	43.090	193	779	972	1,207	6.25	25.21	31.46	39.06

Note.—This table is compiled from the tables of casualties of effectives in the presidencies. Under "invalided," are included here, besides the true invalids, the following casualties: 1. Discharged by purchase. 2. Discharged on account of term expired or otherwise. 3. Promoted. 4. Transferred to town major's list. 5. Transferred to other corps. 6. Deserted. 7. Missing, &c. 8. Other causes. Those on the town major's list of Bengal are included among the effectives.

clusions on the subject of military mortality, let us enter on the statement of particular facts, regarding the increase and diminution of military death-rates for war and peace, brought together in Table V.

In this, the annual rate of mortality per 1,000, for the line forces of India, during the thirty-nine years, from 1817 to 1855 inclusive, is calculated from the table at p. 319 of the report. We here see that during the first Burmese War and the siege of Bhurtpoor, the rate rose as high as 158 per 1,000; and varied in times of peace from an average of 75 to 32.5 per 1,000. For seventeen years of war the death-rate was 80 per 1,000; and for twenty-two years of peace, 51.3; averages that correspond very nearly with those given in Table III.

But while the average mortality of the British Army in India, from 1830 to 1837, was only 43.3 per 1,000, according to Dr. Balfour's summary before quoted; in the next period, from 1838 to 1856, it rose to 59.5, including the mortality from wounds and service during the Afghan War, the Cabul massacre, the Sind and Gwalior campaigns, the Sikh War, 1845-46, and the Punjaub campaign, 1847-48, with the Second Burmese war, 1852-53; and when we deduct the casualties of war and service for this last period, the mortality-rate, 42.5 per 1,000, would, I believe, be a nearer approach to the normal standard of India during peace, than the mean of the two tables, 51.4.

TABLE V.—*Showing the Annual Rate of Mortality per* 1,000, *for the European Line Forces of India, during Thirty-nine Years, from* 1817 *to* 1855 *inclusive.*

Years.	Rate of Deaths per 1,000.	Remarks.
1817....	69	Pindaree War.
1818....	85	Average mortality 75 per 1,000 in peace.
'19....	80	
'20....	77	
'21....	68	
'22....	73	
'23....	67	
1824....	129	Burmese War.
'25....	157	
'26....	158	Siege of Bhurtpoor.
1827....	75	Average mortality 53 per 1,000 in peace.
'28 ...	66	
'29 ..	50	
'30....	36	
'31....	41	
'32....	47	
1833....	63	Coorg War.
1834....	70	Average mortality 50 per 1,000 in peace.
'35....	34	
'36....	43	
'37....	53	
'38....	52	
1839....	76	Average mortality 74 per 1,000.
'40....	95	
'41....	90	Afghan War.
'42....	107	Cabul Massacre.
1843....	77	Sind Campaign.
'44....	81	Gwalior "
1845....	124	First Sikh War.
'46....	85	
1847....	47	Second Sikh War.
'48....	65	
1849....	67	
1850....	42	Average 42 per 1,000 in peace.
'51 ...	42	
1852....	63	Second Burmese War.
'53....	49	
1854....	35	Average mortality 32.5 in peace.
'55....	30	

It was stated by Sir Charles Wood, in his

speech already referred to,* that "during the mutiny in India, the mortality in twenty regiments which were sent from this country, but which were not in action, was only 34 per 1,000," which must be exclusive of war casualties, I should think; and in the next table, or No. VI, which is a return of mortality and invaliding of her Majesty's troops serving in India, 1861, the actual mortality in India from locality and climate is 35.3 per 1,000; the other casualties for invaliding and deaths on the passage home being 33.3. All such sources of discrepancy, as direct and indirect results from warfare, and other contingencies, must be eliminated from our statistical data before a true estimated rate of the mortality, from natural causes of locality and climate, is attainable. If such peculiarities of service are not attended to, and minutely enumerated for all comparisons, we can arrive at only vague and by no means satisfactory conclusions.

TABLE VI.—*Annual Rate of Mortality and Invaliding of Her Majesty's Troops serving in India*, 1861, *exclusive of late Honorable East India Company's Troops.*

	Bengal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Total. India.	Deaths per 1,000 Strength.
Mean effective stren'h, 1861	37,483	10,739	8,860	57,082	..
Admitted into Indian Hospitals	73,233	13,471	15,049	102,253	..
Number of days under treatment (average sick time to each soldier)	29.30	21.04	26.65	25.66	..
Deaths in Indian Hospitals	16.42	156.	204.	2,002	35.3
Killed in Battle	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.
Deaths on board ship, on passage home, and in Hospitals at home	66.	14.	15.	95.	1.67
Invalided	Returns not receiv'd	38.2	255.	Bengal returns not received.	33.3
		6.37			

Colonel Sykes' paper,† on the Sickness, Mortality, and Invaliding in the East India Company's European and Native Troops, from 1825-44, the last being the year previous to the Sikh War, gives the rate per cent. of European mortality 5.409, and that of invaliding 2.884 per cent., which rates, when raised for 1,000 men, become respectively 54.09 and 28.84. The former rate, however, includes 7.24 per 1,000 of deaths from cholera; and which, when deducted from the aggregate death-rate, leaves that of ordinary deaths from other natural causes 46.85 per 1,000. The rate for invaliding is a little higher than that I have employed for deduction, to obtain the hitherto normal rate of European mortality in India.

(To be concluded in our next.)

* "Times" newspaper, 24th July, 1863.

† This, which is quoted from the *Statistical Journal*, vol. x., p. 100, forms Table 28, "Appendix of the Commissioners' Sanitary Report," 8vo, p. 195.

IMPUTATIONS ON THE COMMISSION.

An anonymous imputation on the integrity of the management of the United States Commission has obtained some currency lately. It was an insinuating fling making no charges and therefore difficult to be met. This is not the first time that this beneficent enterprise has been the target of malice, envy, or something equally mean and ungenerous. There may be exceptional instances of misconduct in the agents of this organization, who are numerous, as there always must be in all undertakings of men, while men are human, but the general conduct of the Commission is above reproach; nay, it merits the grateful approbation of the American people for its active, timely and tender charity towards the sick and wounded men in our armies.

The Commission has performed a double duty, with admirable fidelity and with munificent results on the one hand, and beneficent effects on the other. With one hand, and with its voice, it has appealed to the people in behalf of their suffering brothers, who are stricken in the discharge of their soldiers' duty, till it touched their hearts and commanded their lavish bounty which the necessities of the case drew so largely upon. With the other hand it has been the almoner of the noble contributions it has caused to be made. It has collected, prepared and husbanded these till the havoc and destruction of the battle-field solicited aid, and then has sympathizingly and most serviceably distributed them. Its chief officers have served "without money and without price." Its subordinate agents are paid very moderate wages. The whole expense of the Commission is as scrupulously kept down as the business expense of a snug firm in trade.

Not lightly, not unjustly, is this grand charitable organization to be spoken of to the detriment of its self-sacrificing character and of its means for continuing its needful work. While the war lasts, its work will last. While the war lasts it must continue to appeal to the generosity of our people for support, and to bestow the means for relief which it receives as it has hith-

erto done. We have always applauded the intrepid, resolute and tender hearted women who administered to the relief of the sick and distressed men in Crimean camps. We can refuse to do no less, in justice to this organization, which is as pure in motive and energetic and intrepid in work and beneficent in results as the single-handed charity of the English Sanitary Commission.

We may exhibit the conduct of the Commission in its financial administration, the point where it is covertly attacked, by subjoining the following statement, from the BULLETIN of the Commission, made by Dr. Bellows. This is his final summing up, after giving some details:

1. The Board of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, Vice President, Treasurer, Medical Committee and Standing Committees, give time and services gratuitously. They are refunded (in part,) their traveling expenses; nothing more.

2. Their agents, two hundred in number, general and associate secretaries, medical and sanitary inspectors, relief agents, clerks, depot and store house keepers, wagoners, &c., receiving some more and some less, average just $2 per day, or less than ordinary mechanics' wages. Total, $12,000 per month for the vast human machinery of the Commission, stretching from Texas to the Potomac, from before Charleston to Kansas.

3. About fifteen-sixteenths of all the eight millions the Commission has received, goes on to the backs, or into the mouths of the soldiers.

4. The cost of collecting and distributing supplies is less than three per cent.

5. About twenty-three hundred men are now, and for a long time have been, in daily use and enjoyment of the homes and lodges of the Commission.

6. The battle-field service of the Commission requires a large accumulation of funds and of supplies. At Murfreesboro', Antietam, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, sudden and vast demands were made, and are always likely to be made. Fifty thousand dollars would not cover the cost of our whole service in the first two weeks after any one of our great battles—at Gettysburg it was $75,000.

7. We reckon that if we divided all the aid we have given to the sick in regimental, general, and other hospitals, to men in peril of sickness from scurvy and exposure, it would amount to $3.50 a case; many men having received this several times, as often as they were sick. The seriously wounded have been often—as at Gettysburg—the receivers of as much as $10 aid per man. We mention this to show not how much, but how little, this sometimes called extravagant Commission costs, considering the blessings it is the almoner of.—*Utica Her'ld.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

NOISE.

Conciseness and decision are, above all things, necessary with the sick. Let your thought expressed to them be concisely and decidedly expressed. What doubt and hesitation there may be in your own mind must never be communicated to theirs, not even (I would rather say especially not) in little things Let your doubt be to yourself, your decision to them. People who think outside their heads, the whole process of whose thought appears, like Homer's, in the act of secretion, who tell every thing that led them towards this conclusion and away from that, ought never to be with the sick.

Irresolution is what all patients most dread. Rather than meet this in others, they will collect all their data, and make up their minds for themselves. A change of mind in others, whether it is regarding an operation or re-writing a letter, always injures a patient more than the being called upon to make up his mind to the most dreaded or difficult decision. Further than this, in very many cases, the imagination in disease is far more active and vivid than it it is in health. If you propose to the patient change of air to one place one hour, and to another the next, he has, in each case, immediately constituted himself in imagination the tenant of the place, gone over the whole premises in idea, and you have tired him as much by displacing his imagination, as if you had actually carried him over both places.

Above all, leave the sick room quickly and come into it quickly, not suddenly, not with a rush. But don't let the patient be wearily waiting for you when you will be out of the room or when you will be in it. Conciseness and decision in your movements, as well as your words, are necessary in the sick room, as necessary as absence of hurry and bustle. To possess yourself entirely will ensure you from either failing —either loitering or hurrying.

If a patient has to see, not only to his own but also to his nurse's punctuality, or perseverance, or readiness, or calmness, to any or all of these things, he is far better without that nurse than with her—however valuable and handy her services may otherwise be to him, and however incapable he may be of rendering them to himself.

With regard to reading aloud in the sick room, my experience is, that when the sick are too ill to read to themselves, they can seldom bear to be read to. Children, eye-patients, and uneducated persons are exceptions, or where there is any mechanical difficulty in reading. People who like to be read to, have generally not much the matter with them; while in fevers, or where there is much irritability of brain, the effort of listening to reading aloud has often brought on delirium. I speak with great diffidence; because there is an almost universal impression that it is *spring* the sick to read aloud to them. But two things are certain :

(1.) If there is some matter which *must* be read to a sick person, do it slowly. People often think that the way to get over it with the least fatigue to him is to get it over in least time. They gabble; they plunge and gallop through the reading. There never was a greater

mistake. Houdin, the conjuror, says that the way to make a story seem short is to tell it slowly. So it is with reading to the sick. I have often heard a patient say to such a mistaken reader, "Don't read it to me; tell it me." Unconsciously he is aware that this will regulate the plunging, the reading with unequal paces, slurring over one part, instead of leaving it out altogether, if it is unimportant, and mumbling another. If the reader lets his own attention wander, and then stops to read up to himself, or finds he has read the wrong bit, then it is all over with the poor patient's chance of not suffering. Very few people know how to read to the sick; very few read aloud as pleasantly even as they speak. In reading they sing, they hesitate, they stammer, they hurry, they mumble; when in speaking they do none of these things. Reading aloud to the sick ought always to be rather slow, and exceedingly distinct, but not mouthing—rather monotonous, but not sing song—rather loud, but not noisy—and, above all, not too long. Be very sure of what your patient can bear.

(2.) The extraordinary habit of reading to oneself in a sick room, and reading aloud to the patient any bits which will amuse him or more often the reader, is unaccountably thoughtless. What *do* you think the patient is thinking of during your gaps of non-reading? Do you think that he amuses himself upon what you have read for precisely the time it pleases you to go on reading to yourself, and that his attention is ready for something else at precisely the time it pleases you to begin reading again? Whether the person thus read to be sick or well, whether he be doing nothing or doing something else while being thus read to, the self-absorption and want of observation of the person who does it, is equally difficult to understand—although very often the readee is too amiable to say how much it hurts him.

One thing more: From the flimsy manner in which most modern houses are built, where every step on the stairs, and along the floors, is felt all over the house; the higher the story, the greater the vibration. It is inconceivable how much the sick suffer by having any body overhead. In the solidly built old house, which, fortunately, most hospitals are, the noise and shaking is comparatively trifling. But it is a serious cause of suffering, in lightly built houses, and with the irritability peculiar to some diseases. Better far put such patients at the top of the house, even with the additional fatigue of stairs, if you cannot secure the room above them being untenanted; you may otherwise bring on a state of restlessness which no opium will subdue. Do not neglect the warning, when a patient tells you that he "Feels every step above him to cross his heart." Remember that every noise a patient cannot *see* partakes of the character of suddenness to him; and I am persuaded that patients with these peculiarly irritable nerves, are positively less injured by having persons in the same room with them than overhead, or separated by only a thin compartment. Any sacrifice to secure silence for these cases is worth while, because no air, however good, no attendance, however careful, will do any thing for such cases without quiet. The effect of music upon the sick has been scarcely at all noticed. In fact, its expensiveness, as it is now, makes any general application of it quite out of the question. I will only remark here that wind instruments, including the human voice, and stringed instruments, capable of continuous sound, have generally a beneficial effect—while the piano-forte, with such instruments as have *no* continuity of sound, has just the reverse. The finest piano-forte playing will damage the sick, while an air, like "Home, sweet home" or "Assisa a pié d'un salice," on the most ordinary grinding organ, will sensibly soothe them—and this quite independent of association.

VARIETY.

To any but an old nurse, or an old patient, the degree would be quite inconceivable to which the nerves of the sick suffer from seeing the same walls, the same ceiling, the same surroundings during a long confinement to one or two rooms.

The superior cheerfulness of persons suffering severe paroxysms of pain over that of persons suffering from nervous debility has often been remarked upon, and attributed to the enjoyment of the former of their intervals of respite. I incline to think that the majority of cheerful cases is to be found among those patients who are not confined to one room, whatever their suffering, and that the majority of depressed cases will be seen among those subjected to a long monotony of objects about them.

The nervous frame really suffers as much from this as the digestive organs from long monotony of diet, as the British soldier from his twenty-one years' "boiled beef."

The effect in sickness of beautiful objects, of variety of objects, and especially of brilliancy of color, is hardly at all appreciated.

Such cravings are usually called the "fancies" of patients. And often, doubtless, patients have "fancies," as *e. g.* when they desire two contradictions. But much more often their (so called) "fancies" are the most valuable indications of what is necessary for their recovery. And it would be well if nurses would watch these (so called) "fancies" closely.

I have seen, in fevers, (and felt, when I was a fever patient myself,) the most acute suffering produced from the patient (in a hut,) not being able to see out of window, and the knots in the wood being the only view. I shall never forget the rapture of fever patients over a bunch of bright-colored flowers. I remember (in my own case,) a nosegay of wild flowers being sent me, and from that moment recovery becoming more rapid.

People say the effect is only on the mind. It is no such thing. The effect is on the body, too. Little as we know about the way in which we are affected by form, by color and light, we do know this, that they have an actual physical effect.

Variety of form and brilliancy of color in the objects presented to patients are actual means of recovery.

But it must be *slow* variety, *e. g.*, if you show a patient ten or twelve engravings successively, ten-to-one that he does not become cold and faint, or feverish, or even sick; but hang one up opposite him, one on each successive day, or week, or month, and he will revel in the variety.

The folly and ignorance which reign too often supreme over the sick room cannot be better exemplified than by this. While the nurse will leave the patient stewing in a corrupting atmosphere, the best ingredient of which is carbonic acid, she will deny him, on the plea of unhealthiness, a glass of cut-flowers, or a growing plant. Now, no one ever saw "overcrowding" by plants in a room or ward. And the carbonic acid they give off at nights would not poison a fly. Nay, in overcrowded rooms, they actually absorb carbonic acid and give off oxygen. Cut flowers also decompose water and produce oxygen gas. It is true there are certain flowers, *e. g.*, lilies, the smell of which is said to depress the nervous system. These are easily known by the smell, and can be avoided.

Volumes are now written and spoken upon the effect of the mind upon the body. Much of it is true. But I wish a little more was thought of the effect of the body on the mind. You who believe yourselves overwhelmed with anxieties, but are able every day to walk up Regent Street, or out in the country, to take your meals with others in other rooms, &c., &c., you little know how much your anxieties are thereby lightened; you little know how intensified they become to those who can have no change;* how the very walls of their sick rooms seem hung with their cares; how the ghosts of their troubles haunt their beds; how impossible it is for them to escape from a pursuing thought without some help from variety.

A patient can just as much move his leg when it is fractured as change his thoughts when no external help from variety is given him. This is, indeed, one of the main sufferings of sickness; just as the fixed posture is one of the main sufferings of the broken limb.

It is an ever recurring wonder to see educated people, calling themselves nurses, acting thus. They vary their own objects, their own employments, many times a day; and while nursing (!) some bed-ridden sufferer, they let him lie there staring at a dead wall, without any change of object to enable him to vary his thoughts; and it never even occurs to them, at least to move his bed so that he can look out of window. No, the bed is to be always left in the darkest, dullest, remotest, part of the room.

I think it is a very common error among the well to think that "with a little more self-control" the sick might, if they choose, "dismiss painful thoughts" which "aggravate their disease," &c. Believe me, almost *any* sick person, who behaves decently well, exercises more self-control every moment of his day than you will ever know till you are sick yourself. Almost every step that crosses his room is painful to him; almost every thought that crosses his brain is painful to him; and if he can speak without being savage, and look without being unpleasant, he is exercising self-control.

Suppose you have been up all night, and instead of being allowed to have your cup of tea, you were to be told that you ought to "exercise self-control," what would you say? Now, the nerves of the sick are always in the state that yours are in after you have been up all night.

We will suppose the diet of the sick to be cared for. Then, this state of nerves is most frequently to be relieved by care in affording them a pleasant view, a judicious variety as to flowers,* and pretty things. Light by itself will often relieve it. The craving for "the return of day," which the sick so constantly evince, is generally nothing but the desire for light, the remembrance of the relief which a variety of objects before the eye affords to the harrassed sick mind.

Again, every man and every woman has some amount of manual employment, excepting a few fine ladies, who do not even dress themselves, and who are virtually in the same category, as to nerves, as the sick. Now, you can have no idea of the relief which manual labor is to you—of the degree to which the deprivation of manual employment increases the peculiar irritability from which many sick suffer.

A little needle-work, a little writing, a little cleaning, would be the greatest relief the sick could have, if they could do it; these *are* the greatest relief to you, though you do not know it Reading, though it is often the only thing the sick can do, is not this relief. Bearing this in mind, bearing in mind that you have all these varieties of employment which the sick cannot have, bear also in mind to obtain for them all the varieties which they can enjoy.

I need hardly say that I am well aware that excess in needle-work, in writing, in any other continuous employment, will produce the same irritability that defect in manual employment (as one cause) produces in the sick.—*Miss Nightingale.*

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF RELIEF AGENT, THIRD CORPS.

"Friday, being Christmas Day, I saw the prisoners† again that I visited early in the week, and furnished them some articles as indicated in the abstract.

"I was much amused at the plan adopted by the prisoners in order to get tobacco. The prisoners have formed themselves into what they call the 'Tobacco Club,' and every man, on his arrival, must either pay the sum of fifty cents or be tossed in a blanket. The majority willingly pay the amount required. The money goes into a common treasury to be expended in the purchase of tobacco, which is divided equally among all. The other night, a rough, independent sort of a fellow was brought in, and refused peremptorily to pay the amount required, ridiculing, at the same time, the penalty but the tossing was resorted to, and before it was over, he would have willingly paid the fifty cents, could he have been released from the vigorous exercise."

* It is a matter of painful wonder to the sick themselves, how much painful ideas predominate over pleasurable ones in their impressions; they reason with themselves; they think themselves ungrateful; it is all of no use. The fact is, that these painful impressions are far better dismissed by a real laugh, if you can excite one by books or conversation, than by any direct reasoning; or if the patient is too weak to laugh, some impression from nature is what he wants. I have mentioned the cruelty of letting him stare at a dead wall. In many diseases, especially in convalescence from fever, that wall will appear to make all sorts of faces at him; now, flowers never do this. Form, color, will free your patient from his painful ideas better than any argument.

* No one who has watched the sick can doubt the fact that some feel stimulus from looking at scarlet flowers, exhaustion from looking at deep blue, &c.

† Deserters and others, some on slight charges.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.
C. J. Stillé, " "

OFFICERS:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., President.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President.
George T. Strong, Treasurer.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Associate Secretary.
J. H. Douglas, M.D., Associate Secretary.
F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Henry W. Bellows, D.D.
George T. Strong.
William H. Van Buren, M.D.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.
C. R. Agnew, M.D.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Soldier's Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
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Writes jet black and flows smoothly.

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CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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FIRE INSURANCE.

NORTH AMERICAN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of the City of New York,

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - $500,000 00
ASSETS, - - - - - - - 604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$157,360 00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	364,385 00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603 11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000 00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,384 00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220 39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788 83
Other Property of Company	793 75
	$604,535 59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years.*

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RECENT MEDICAL WORKS,

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ON MILITARY AND CAMP HOSPITALS, AND THE HEALTH OF TROOPS IN THE FIELD. By L. Baudens, Medical Director of the French Army, &c., &c. Translated and Annotated by Franklin B. Hough, M. D., late Sanitary Inspector in the Army of the Potomac. 12mo, 260 pages. Price $1 25.

*** The above work is the result of a commission sent by the French Government to the Crimea to report upon the condition of the Hospitals and troops of the French army, and incidentally of the English and Sardinian armies. It is written in the form of a narrative, and the great questions of the *prevention and control of disease in camps and hospitals* are thoroughly discussed. The hygienic conditions of the United States Army are similar to those of the armies of the Crimea; the rules and prescriptions given in the book will, therefore, be found perfectly applicable. This work recommends itself to commanders of regiments as well as army surgeons.

ON DIPHTHERIA. By Edward Headlam Greenhow. 1861. Pp. 160. Price $1.25.

Our readers will find a very large amount of information in the twelve chapters of which the volume is made up. Perhaps, in the present state of our knowledge on the subject of this obscurely understood disease, little more can be said beyond what may here be found written down.—*London Medical Times and Gazette.*

We have only been able here to refer to certain of the more prominent facts concerning diphtheria; but we believe we have said enough to recommend this well-written treaties to the attention of the profession.—*British Medical Journal.*

ADVICE TO A MOTHER ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HER OFFSPRING IN INFANCY, CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH. By P. Henry Chavasse, M. D. Price 50c.

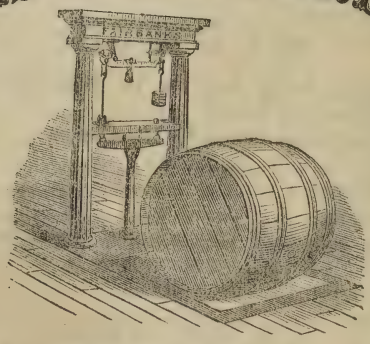
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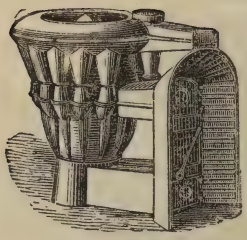
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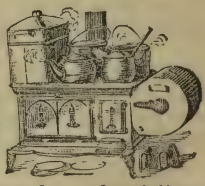


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THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, APRIL 1, 1864. No. 11.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

WHEREIN WE HAVE TO COMPLAIN OF THE PUBLIC.

The amount of support which the Commission has, almost from the outset, received from the public in all the loyal States, has, we need hardly say, been something unprecedented. Voluntary contributions for a humane object were never before made on such a scale, within the same period. The great fairs, which are taking place in various parts of the country, are the most extraordinary, as well as most magnificent, exhibitions of benevolence of which there is any record. The quantity of stores and the sums of money placed at our disposal have been immense. They have not, so far, enabled us to meet all the demands upon us; but they so far surpass, both in amount and in the alacrity with which they have been bestowed, all other contributions in the whole history of charity, that the nation is astonished at the extent of its own efforts for the relief of suffering, and the rest of the world is beginning to be astonished also.

This being the case, what have we to complain of? If we have only to ask in order to receive; if every village, town, and city responds to the least of our calls, what more do we want? If the public is doing more to aid us in our work than any public ever did before, and more than we ventured to hope for when we began it, what do we mean by the heading of this article? These are questions which will suggest themselves to most people the minute they glance at this page, and they are just the questions we want to answer.

As the enterprise in which we are engaged grows in magnitude, as the amount of stores sent to us and as the amount of money given us, or promised to us, increases, the spirit of criticism on the part of the public, of course, rises higher. The more there is entrusted to us, the more jealously we are watched. The larger the field of our labors, the greater number of points of attack are presented to our enemies and detractors. When the Sanitary Commission is in every body's mouth, and when the population of whole cities is working or giving to swell its stores, the streets and wharves encumbered with its supplies, of course a greater number of people than ever are anxious to know what comes of the money, and are prone to doubt the wisdom or economy of those who spend it. And all this is most natural and most reasonable. No body ought ever be entrusted with even one hundred dollars of the public funds, not to speak of hundreds of thousands, without having all his operations

carefully scrutinized, and fully and fearlessly criticised. So far from feeling this criticism to be irksome, we covet and encourage it. We want to keep it up. We want the public to know what we do, and to pass judgment on it. We invite examination, and rigid and close examination, of our manner of working, and of the results of our work. If any body has any fault to find with it, we are desirous to have him state it publicly, either that we may publicly acknowledge him to be right, or publicly give our reasons for thinking him wrong.

But what we have to complain of is, the wide diffusion, particularly in the great cities, and especially in this city, of a spirit of cavilling and carping, on the part of those who not only do not know any thing about the organization of the Commission, or the results of its labors, but who will take no pains to learn. If such an organization as ours, so honored and trusted by the people, had neither enemies nor assailants, it would prove conclusively that human nature had undergone a radical change. We have hundreds, and they are actuated by all sorts of motives; but the hostile criticisms of at least two-thirds of them are due to sheer, unmitigated ignorance. We meet people every day who ask us, what goes with all this money which the Commission is receiving; whether the President does not receive $10,000 a year; whether the stores are not horribly wasted; whether enormous sums are not paid in salaries to employés; whether there is now any need for the Commission; whether the Government does not supply every thing, or nearly every thing, the soldiers need. When we endeavor to ascertain the sources from which these objections come, we find in nine cases out of ten that they have been suggested by gossip at a dinner table, or during an evening call; by a letter from a surgeon in the army, who probably never came in contact with the Commission at all; or an officer, who might have been fed and clothed by it for weeks without knowing it. And there are a great many very honest, well-meaning men and women who go about, week after week, spreading these accusations from house to house, and growing bitterer and bitterer, and more satisfied of their truth, the oftener they repeat them, without ever giving themselves the trouble to devote even twenty minutes of honest, patient labor to the task of finding out whether they have any foundation or not.

Now, the Commission publish the Bulletin fortnightly, and distribute about 14,000 copies of it for the express purpose of answering these questions—of showing what goes with the money, what wants it supplies, what the army think of its work. They are all answered in its columns, month after month, with tiresome explicitness. The *Sanitary Reporter* is published at Louisville, for precisely the same purpose, and distributed in great quantities; so is the *Sanitary Echo* at Portland, Me.; and so is the *Messenger* in New Jersey. They are sent to, or can be obtained by, nearly every body who takes the slightest interest in the Commission or its work. They contain its reports, its accounts, its movements and doings of every kind; and, in addition to these, a great many thousand pamphlets have been circulated, with the same object —that of keeping the public fully and accurately informed of the nature, and extent, and result of the work to which they have contributed so much in money, goods, and labor. In December last a pamphlet, known as Document 69, was printed, giving a very complete statement of the objects and methods of the Sanitary Commission —accounts of its receipts and expenditure —and it was sent over the country in every direction, to every body who was known to us to take, or be likely to take, any interest in what we were doing.

More than this the Commission cannot do. It cannot obtain the insertion in the newspapers of such masses of matter as its reports, except as advertisements; and to pay for them as advertisements in such a number of papers as would insure their being seen in all parts of the country, would cost a sum of money which it would be utterly unwarrantable to expend, for the mere purpose of securing publicity.

What, then, is the reason that there is so much ignorance and misconception afloat about the needs of the Commission, and the extent of its labors? It is simply that people do not read what we publish. It is easier and far pleasanter to sit and listen to

the chit-chat of somebody who denounces or slanders it, than to sit down and wade through what it has to say for itself in its publications. We have ourselves, more than once, listened to accusations against it from persons on whose table piles of the BULLETIN were lying, at that moment, unopened. Even a hasty glance at them would have cleared up the very points on which the owner was professing ignorance and alarm. No doubt reports and accounts are dull reading. The stories of inspectors, and relief agents, and hospital visitors, and lists of supplies do not always possess the charm of a romance. But, then, there is no way of making them any more attractive, except by the sacrifice of truthfulness; and we hold that it is the duty of those who want to know why we need so much money, and how we spend it, to read them carefully before helping to create or circulate doubts, with regard either to the wisdom or usefulness of our work. In the country districts, from which our supplies generally come, we have little to complain of on this score; but there is in the cities a good deal of misconception about us, which a very little time spent, even once a fortnight, in acquiring information would remove.

WHAT WE DID AT OLUSTEE.

Dr. Marsh writes from Jacksonville:

Allow me, 'midst these constant interruptions, to give you a rapid glance of what has been transpiring during the last four weeks.

On the 6th of February I received official information that, on the evening of the same day, an expedition would leave for Jacksonville, Fla. In the afternoon of the same, we were prepared to accompany it. Surmising, however, that little or no preparation had been made for battle-field casualties, and that the expedition was not regarded as a very serious enterprise, I sent for the brig Mystic, loaded with sanitary stores, then in Light-House Inlet, 62 miles distant; and for A. B. Day, of tested usefulness, to accompany it.

The expedition, with little hindrance, arrived at its destination, losing but one man, and him while landing; the enemy retiring as our troops took possession of the town. After a little delay it was determined to follow the line of the railroad leading to Lake City, in the direction of Tallahassee. The enemy would skirmish and retire as we approached. A few advantages were gained, which have been already publicly reported.

On the 18th ult. the main body of the army took its line of march from Jacksonville, and bivoucked three miles east of Baldwin. On the succeeding day, at 8 P. M., it reached Barber's. The next day, at 7 A. M., the march was resumed, and the line of railroad followed to the point where the wagon road crosses the railroad east of Olustee; thence following the wagon road, leading nearly in the same direction, to a point where the road passes between two cyprus swamps; and just after emerging from these swamps, and to the north of them, we met the enemy in position and awaiting us. Our march all the day had been a narrow path, lined by almost impenetrable thickets, some parts sandy but often swampy, and the men compelled to march in water from one to two and a half feet in depth; officers in stocking feet, some carrying their boots, others having thrown them away.

In passing between the two swamps, the artillery was nearly or quite abreast of the infantry, and in this relation unexpectedly met the enemy. Capt. Hamilton, of the artillery, asserts that when he first saw the enemy, he was not more than fifty yards from them, and too near to work his guns; and further states that himself and EVERY OFFICER of his command had been picked off previous to the fire from the enemy in the front. The enemy were securely posted; his infantry behind a breastwork of logs and in rifle pits, with his cannon in position in the rear and partly on one side. Our men were naturally, by such unexpected attack, thrown into disorder, but soon rallied, inspirited by their daring commander, Gen. Seymour, who shared in the thickest of the fight. From the nature of the ground it was impossible to hold our position, and a retreat was ordered. To secure it the 1st N. C. C. T., and the indomitable 54th Mass., (colored,) were brought up to hold the field, while the main force retired—and well did they hold

it, until the retreat was secured. Then, and not till ordered, did they leave the field—a field covered with their dead comrades. The 54th was the last on the field, and covered all our retiring force, and itself in perfect order, and could at any point have been turned and hurled upon the foe.

As no expectation of an action had existed, so few preparations for casualties had been made. Each man, not too severely wounded, in the best way he could withdrew from the field; a few on army wagons, some on horses and mules, and the larger portion on foot, to Barber's, sixteen or seventeen miles distant. To this point the cars had previously proceeded from Jacksonville, and at this point the assistants of the Commission had halted, (not being allowed to proceed farther,) and prepared to receive the wounded. I need not detail the work of the Commission here. It *did its duty;* it left NO PORTION of its duty UNDONE. I will simply state that from Commission stores we fed the wounded, clothed them, placed them upon beds, improvised from bed-sacks and hay, and then forwarded six car-loads of them to Jacksonville. Three loads still remained, and at this juncture, Gen. Seymour, having ordered what commissary stores had there accumulated to be burned, advised our corps and their noble assistants to leave the remaining wounded and retreat, or they would be captured. All resolved to stay with the wounded, and if these were captured to go with and minister to their wants. Fortunately three cars soon returned, and the wounded with our remaining stores having been placed upon them, the train followed the retreating army. Through eagerness to escape the supposed pursuing enemy, too great pressure of steam was employed, and the flues collapsed. And here the immortal 54th (colored) did what ought to insure it higher praise than to hold the field in the face of a victorious foe—with ropes it seized the engine (now useless) and dragged it with its doomed freight for many miles, into Jacksonville. They knew their fate if captured; their humanity triumphed. Does history record a nobler deed?

Thus were suddenly thrown upon the medical staff several hundreds of wounded and famishing men. True, for want of transportation, the medicines of five regiments were left here, but there was absolutely no other provision; and wounded men do not need medicines. Here, again, the stores of the Commission were thrown open, and I am assured by the chief executive medical officer (whose statement I forward you) that he needed no supplies, medical or other, which he did not obtain from the Commission; and next to none were used which the Commission did not furnish.

The wounded have been removed to Beaufort, Hilton Head, and St. Augustine, from one hundred to two hundred being retained in hospital in Jacksonville. As no shell were used, the wounds were less horrible than those on Morris Island; the number of wounded greater. Those with slight wounds were returned to their regiments, not included in the estimate. Those unfitted for duty, with the loss on the field by death and capture, * * * The most of those severely wounded, and who could not withdraw themselves from the field, were doubtless on the following day captured and cared for by the enemy.

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The following documents explain themselves, and need no comment:

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT FLORIDA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., *March 3d*, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 10.

I. The Brigadier General Commanding, gratefully recalls to the recollection of the troops of this command, the debt incurred by them, during the recent movements, to the Sanitary Commission and its agent, Mr. A. B. Day. Much suffering has been alleviated, and many inconveniences removed, by the energy and promptness with which the supplies of the Commission have been placed at the control of our medical officers; and for those who have been so benefitted, officers and men, the Brigadier General offers his own and their most sincere thanks.

By order of Brigadier General T. Seymour.

R. M. HALL,
1st Lieut. 1st U. S. Artillery,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL.
Assistant Adjutant General.

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HEADQUARTERS, U. S. GENERAL HOSPITALS,
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., *Feb. 24th*, 1864.

This is to certify, that on the 21st day of February I received a telegram from Dr. A. Major, medical director of the sick of

Florida, then at Sanderson Station, Florida Railroad, ordering me to forward to him, at the earliest possible moment, certain medical and sanitary supplies, and a special train of cars, as we had a large number of wounded there.

That at the time such telegram reached me I had no stores or supplies whatever, except such as belonged to five regiments then in the field, and they not embracing the articles required.

That in this emergency I called upon Mr. A. B. Day, agent in charge of the affairs of the U. S. Sanitary Commission in this district, and made a requisition upon him for the articles.

That he at once supplied, from the stores of the Commission, all the articles specified in my requisition, and proceeded himself with them to the front, where I have since learned he arrived safely, and with his assistants rendered valuable service in taking care of and removing our wounded.

That within the ensuing twenty-four hours I received from the front over seven hundred sick and wounded men, and again drew upon the stores of the Commission for all of the requisite articles for their proper treatment and care, and the establishment of the hospitals in which they were placed.

That my requisitions were all honored by Mr. Day, and that without the Commission stores furnished by him, the patients under my care must unavoidably have suffered very severely.

That my large requisitions upon the Commission stores were rendered unavoidably necessary, from the fact that the required articles could not be obtained from any other sources.

That I received from the stores of the Commission an abundant supply of all articles embraced in my requisitions, and cheerfully bear testimony to the great service rendered to the Medical Department by its agents on the occasion named.

WM. A. SMITH,
Surgeon 47th N. Y. V., in charge Post Hospitals.

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, 24th *Feb.*, 1864.

MR. A. B. DAY.
Agent U. S. Sanitary Commission,
Jacksonville, Florida:

SIR—It affords me pleasure to testify to the invaluable aid received through you from the Sanitary Commission, on the occasion of our late engagement.

To your prompt response to my requests for sanitary supplies, and the personal exertions of yourself and assistants in the care of and removing of our wounded, is due the prevention of very much suffering, which would otherwise have been inevitable.

That I found it necessary to draw so largely upon the stores of the Commission, is explained by the fact, that at the time our wounded arrived I was entirely destitute of all supplies of Government stores from the Medical Department, and there was no means of obtaining them from any other source than the noble institution which you so creditably represented. I am happy, also, to add that I received from the Commission a full supply of all articles called for by my requisitions upon them.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed,)
DR. ADOLPH MAJOR,
Medical Director, District of Florida,
Surgeon U. S. V.

Nothing is included in the following return that was used *on* the battle-field:

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., *Feb.* 20th, 1864.

DR. M. M. MARSH,
Inspector, U. S. Sanitary Commission,
Department of the South, Beaufort, S. C.:

DOCTOR—I have the honor to report, as an abstract of the records of this office, the following, as the issues of the Sanitary Commission from the station under my charge, for the last half of the current month. The destitution of the Medical Department stores in this district, at the time of the recent battle of Olustee, will account to you for the large issues of Commission stores.

I beg, in this connection, further to state, that no attempt was made upon my part to do more than provide for the *immediate* and *pressing necessities* of the wounded men, who were so suddenly and so unexpectedly thrown upon our hands.

Blankets	267	Coffee, cans	67
Bed sacks	582	Corn starch, papers	269
Pillow sacks	275	Farina, papers	141
Pillows	148	Chocolate, lbs	30
Sheets	199	Pickles, gallons	48
Shirts	345	Vegetables, bbls	25
Drawers, pairs	357	Tea, lbs	65
Socks, pairs	306	Beef stock, lbs	297
Lint, bbls	2½	Tamarinds, quarts	24
Bandages, bbls	6½	Tin cups	9
Cloth pieces, bbls	4½	Tin basins	4
Pillow cases	106	Sul. morph., bottles	3
Handkerchiefs	161	Chloroform, 1 lb. bottles	2
Towels	648	Castile soap, lbs	33
Slippers, pairs	336	Quinine, bottles	2
Slings for wounded arms	39	Ext. ginger, bottles	12
Cushions for wounded limbs, bbls	2	Jellies, can	1
Crackers, bbls	84½	Tomatoes, cans	8
Dried apples, bbls	6½	Red pepper, ozs	4
Stimulus, bottles	89	Sugar, lbs	20
Milk, cans	345	Tourniquettes	12
		Sponges	12
		Peaches, cans	8

I have the pleasure to herewith return you vouchers for the above issues, save for such things as were used by myself and assistants at Baldwin Station, (where we met the wounded.)

The number of wounded or disabled men, whose comforts were promoted, to a greater or less extent, by the stores issued as above, was something over seven hundred.

I am, doctor, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. B. DAY.

LETTERS IN OUR DRAWER.

Our readers will perceive from the reports contained in this and previous numbers of the BULLETIN, that the greatest want of our Army in the Southwest just now, is fresh vegetables. Scurvy is making its appearance amongst the men in every direction, and its presence renders wounds and other diseases incurable. The exhaustion of the country in which we are operating in Tennessee, the length of the line of communication, the smallness of the means of transportation, and the recent severity of the weather, have withal, rendered it very difficult to supply anti-scorbutics, in quantities even nearly adequate to the emergency. All these difficulties, except one, still exist, and are not likely to decrease during the coming campaign; and it has, therefore, appeared to our agents, that the best way to meet them, was to raise the vegetables on the spot. There is the land and the labor, and all that has to be provided, are the seeds and tools. They have accordingly gone to work to raise crops, and with every prospect of success. We have already recorded the commencement of the experiment, and all the accounts which we have lately received, show it to be progressing favorably.

Dr. Hewit, the Medical Director of the Department of the Ohio, wrote from Knoxville, February 23d, to the A. A. General, Captain Dickson:

SIR: I respectfully recommend that a suitable place be selected for a kitchen garden, sufficiently large to supply fresh vegetables for the hospitals and garrison of this post, and that the necessary steps be taken to prepare the ground and provide protection for the crop. The U. S. Sanitary Commission will furnish all the seeds that may be required.

I respectfully recommend, in addition, that the loyal citizens in the neighborhood be encouraged to raise vegetables for the market, and be granted all possible security in so doing; and that a supply of garden seeds be obtained for gratuitous distribution through the Sanitary Commission and otherwise, as may be deemed just and most expeditious.

This was emphatically endorsed by General Schofield, as follows:

The within meets the approbation of the Major General Commanding in the highest degree, and the military authorities will do all in their power to help the matter along.

Mr. Seymour, our Agent at Knoxville, accordingly writes, March 1, to Dr. Newberry:

Mr. Wm. M. Culburtson, who is in the employ of the Commission, I have sent to you for the purpose of procuring a supply of seeds and implements for a garden at this place. He is a practical gardener, and will be able to give you all the necessary information respecting our plans. We propose to have put under cultivation from 50 to 75 acres, and if it meets your approbation, to have him superintend it. I think it very important to have a garden at this place. All the potatoes, onions, and other vegetables we raise here will save a vast amount of transportation and expense.

Enclosed, I send you a request of the Medical Director with the proper endorsement.

I should have moved in this matter earlier had we not have been in so unsettled a state in military affairs. Now that Longstreet has retired and our army advanced, we can go on with the work without molestation.

Vegetables and all eatables are very much needed here. You cannot send too many potatoes and onions, also crout. Good ale is much wanted in Hospitals. We want all the *socks* you can send. The Government is wholly destitute of them. Should like some shoes, hats and pants.

Mr. Crary has made a list of articles wanted for our mess. It may be soon necessary to establish a post in front.

Mr. Read writes, Feb. 29, as follows, respecting the progress made in the same work at Chattanooga:

And I must still continue for a few days, gathering plows and harrows, spades, shovels, axes, hatchets, seed-markers and seed-drills, grindstones and whetstones, wrenches and hammers, material for hotbeds and frames, and the 1,001 articles necessary for a gardener's camp, each of which, down to a curry-comb and horse-brush, I have first to find, and then get an order for; and must get all my general official orders through before I can devote any time to the dear people at home.

To-day it rained too much to plow; to-morrow, I think, if pleasant, we shall have nine plows running. I have twelve horses in the camp, and shall take out ten to morrow. Teams seem the great difficulty. Gen. Thomas' Adj't and Chief Q. M., both said it was not possible to spare a single horse or mule for plowing, and to avoid a failure, I have culled the best from the convalescent corralls, and as I work them with convalescent soldiers, every thing corresponds.

You shall hear from me as soon as possible, with a grist for your mill, but be patient.

How much need there is of this gardening, may be gleaned from the following, from Mr. Carpenter, our agent at Memphis, (Feb. 24.)

Since my last report, upon my return from Helena, Dr. Warriner arrived with sanitary stores, leaving at this point one hundred barrels of potatoes, and twenty-five of onions. The potatoes are peculiarly acceptable, as scurvy is making its appearance quite freely in several of the camps. It is very desirable to receive a supply

sufficient to allow, at least, a few rations for general distribution. It would undoubtedly have a marked effect in checking the spread of diseases of this class.

We have still the same wants with regard to farinaceous food, stimulants, sheets, socks, &c.

We have at this place about —— white troops and about —— colored troops, with about 2,500 sick in general hospital and 500 in regimental hospitals.

Small-pox is still on the increase, and quite prevalent. Pneumonia and diarrhea are still in excess of any prevailing diseases. The regiments are generally reported in fine sanitary condition.

Nor is it in the West alone that the gardening goes on. The movement has extended to North Carolina, and, so far, with promising results. Dr. Page writes, March 6:

Your note of the 27th reached me this morning, with enclosed vaccine matter. Its reception has created a feeling of great satisfaction already—more especially as we have recently had an addition to our surgical corps of Dr. Martin—a medical gentleman, enthusiastic on the subject of small-pox and vaccination. If he is retained here, I look forward to an early suppression of our terrible pest.

I learn some express matter has arrived for me in the Schooner "Pearl," at Moorehead, and will be up to-morrow. I presume that the garden tools and the remaining seeds—Short Corn, Mohawk Beans and Champion Peas, and Flat Dutch Onion, are among them. Gardens and garden-plots are springing up in every part of the service. The Generals have gardens, the A. A. G's, and so on down. The crops will be a glorious relief to our service. The large Hospitals are supplied with the early seed, and small ones are preparing the ground and asking for seed. It would seem that every soldier's and officer's mess were anxious to have a garden patch at their kitchen door. When you know that a wilted cabbage-head from New York commands the exorbitant Sutler's price, of sixty to eighty cents, and the demand not supplied at that price, you will not be surprised at the soldier's enthusiasm for gardens and green sauce. I am now endeavoring to start a fine garden on the opposite bank of the Neuse—within the enclosure of the Small-pox Hospital, which is so isolated from society and the markets. Its culture will be a healthful relief to the convalescents there. It now contains some two hundred patients and an exposed camp of a large number.

I wish you could send me a re-supply of some varieties—say,

2 lbs. Scollop Squash.
2 " Hubbard "
2 " Boston Marrow Squash.
½ bushel Marrow Peas.
½ " Champion of England Peas.
1 lb. Cucumber.
½ " Red Olive Radish.
½ " Red Turnip "
½ " Nutmeg Cantelope.
1 " Red Turnip Beet.
1 " Long Blood "
1 " Orange Carrot.
1 " Early Dutch Turnip.
½ lb. Okra.
¼ " Parsley.
½ " Ice Cream Watermelon.
¼ " Gherkin Cucumber.
2 " Cress.
½ bushel Tom Thumb Peas.
1 " Cranberry Pole Bean.

The twenty barrels Mercer seed potatoes have arrived in good order.

We shall have a large space of fine land in our Hospital Garden for a coarser crop. Can you not send me twenty-five bushels of a good kind of white-bread corn for planting, as we have a steam grist mill? The crop would afford our hospitals a fine quantity of sweet corn meal in the fall and winter.

We have large borders on the ornamental grounds of the General Hospital, and some ornate garden-work for floral effect.

* * * * *

To show you the zest with which our Hospital Surgeons entertain the idea of a Hospital Garden, I enclose for your perusal a letter of acknowledgment received this morning from Dr. Bellangir, U. S. V., Surgeon in charge of Mansfield General Hospital at Moorehead City.

I paid thirty-seven dollars and forty-six cents freight ($37.46) on the freight of the "Petrel" on her last trip. Was it correct?

This letter will go via canal and Old Point, with some danger of capture by the rebel guerrillas, as they are infesting that line of communication, and fired on the boat the last trip down. If the letter should fall into their hands it may sow seeds of discontent in their ranks. At any rate they will be as much interested in this part of the note as ourselves.

We are still on the alert, and General Peck is pushing on strong works of defence, and perhaps some for offence. Our 3d N. Y. Cavalry are not to be caught napping, nor will they be likely to leave much neutral ground between us and the enemy.

I write this in some haste and violence to the chirography and style, but the mail closes earlier than I anticipated.

MANSFIELD GEN. HOSPITAL,
March 5, 1864.

DEAR DOCTOR.—God bless the Sanitary Commission, and its efficient, able, and obliging representatives in this District, Dr. J. W. Page & Bro. Such a choice lot of garden seeds, so neatly arranged and labelled, as I received yesterday, is enough to make an amateur gardener quite happy with himself and the rest of mankind. I hope if you favor us with a visit during the summer to show you some of the things growing in about the right shape, but really I am unacquainted with some of the articles sent. What is the Gherkin Cucumber? When must it be planted? When do you plant Okra, and what are its habits about coming up? The other seeds are all familiar. I will be delighted to receive the other seeds mentioned, especially the Champion of England Pea. Will send you up the fore part of next week a mess of lettuce and radishes; that is, provided you have not already plenty of them; do not intend to be *distanced* much by either Newbern or Washington, N. C. Doctor, I have set a clerk at work on your blank reports; hope soon to have our hospital properly reported every week. Am mortified at our miserable

blundering in that matter. Accept my warmest thanks for many favors.

Yours truly,

J. B. BELLANGIR,
Surgeon U. S. V., in charge.

From other quarters we have nothing novel to report, but our every day work goes on every where with unabated vigor.

We have been able at New Orleans to bring about an improvement in the Government machinery, which will save a vast deal of misery. Dr. Blake, writing from that city (March 8,) says:

During the month of February much was accomplished that will add to the comfort of the soldier, and redound to the credit of the Commission.

* * * * * *

A communication from Mr. Bullard to Major Brigham, chief paymaster, was the occasion of an order for all paymasters to pay the soldier's mileage and subsistence from this city to his home. Before this he received an order on the quartermaster for transportation, and was given whatever happened to be convenient, without any reference to his personal comfort. Privates, maimed and enfeebled by disease, have been stowed away in transports like cattle, and allowed to find a resting place any where, on cotton bales or in the hold; to subsist as best they might on scanty rations. Now, the mileage and subsistence give every discharged soldier a comfortable passage home.

* * * * * *

Some were too sick to go on the ordinary transport, and hence an application was made to the Quartermasters' Department, to furnish a special steamer for the purpose of a hospital transport.

The Laurel Hill was first assigned, then withdrawn, and finally the N. W. Thomas. Both these steamers were fitted up by the Commission. The latter will run to Cairo, carrying discharged men who are too sick to go from the Department by common transports.

And in the report of Mr. Bullard, our relief agent at that point, (March 4,) we find the following:

My report for the month of February has been unavoidably delayed. The new movement of troops through Brashear, made it probable that there would be at least a temporary increase of work at the "Soldiers' Rest" in that place.

* * * * * *

Late Monday night a squad of seventy-six recruits for a New York regiment arrived in Brashear, *en route* for Franklin, to join their regiment. The night was stormy; some of the men were sick; all without experience in the service. They had but just landed from the transport, which had brought them from New York, when they were started for the field. The officer having them in charge asked if we could cook them some rations, and give them a place on the floor, or any where under cover, for the night.

We prepared them some good coffee, gave them an abundance of excellent bread and butter, and then made the best arrangement we could for sleeping. Most of the beds were already occupied. The sick men were furnished with cots; the rest were well satisfied with the floor.

We gave them breakfast and dinner the following day, and they left us with many kind wishes for the Sanitary Commission.

For Tuesday we had, in many respects, a repetition of the preceding twenty-four hours. Eighty-three men were received, some dropping in as late as 11 P. M. A squad of some thirty men came in about 10 P. M.

They were from various regiments, and on their way to New Orleans for the Invalid Corps Camp. The beds were already full, but we gave them a supper, and spread them on the floors.

I have given you these somewhat extended details, as coming under my own observation, and showing about the character of the work in Brashear.

The officials and soldiers, so far as I had the opportunity of conversing with them, express the greatest satisfaction, and, I think, appreciate the benefits resulting to soldiers delayed at this point, and all speak well of the superintendent, Mr. Reynolds.

I gathered the following statements from his journal:

FROM FEBRUARY 14TH TO MARCH 1ST.

Number received at the Soldiers' Rest	569
Number of meals	1,219
Number of lodgings	334
Daily average	39
Whole number at the "Rest" during February	802
Whole number of meals during February	1,955
Whole number of lodgings "	523
Daily average "	27
Rations drawn "	716

* * * * * *

Discharged and furloughed soldiers are relieved at the Home on showing their papers. Soldiers just arrived in the city, in special cases, are fed before being sent to the "Camp of Distribution." Stragglers coming too late to be sent to the camp are kept till morning, and after breakfast all put on their way. Any soldier bringing an order from General Reynolds's headquarters is relieved, in consideration of the Government providing for the Home an expensive building, in a central locality, convenient to most of the military offices.

* * * * * *

I enclose Mr. Weaver's report for the month of February, New Orleans "Home:"

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

Number of men received	756
Number of lodgings	4,518
Number of meals	15,525
Average daily number of men	156
Largest number for one day	220
Smallest " "	85

One death at the Home in February.

In the Special Relief Office I have to report continued activity.

The journal shows a record of thirty-two cases. $4,307.60 ("back pay,") has been collected. The correspondence necessary for the correction of imperfect papers, coming from the distant regiments, is increasing.

I have secured certificates and passes, with

transportation, for several parties who had lost their discharged papers.

So far I have had every facility afforded me by officials, that could be reasonably asked, on all my applications for necessary papers or information.

WHAT THE SURGEONS IN THE FIELD THINK ABOUT THE COMMISSION.

The officers and medical men, who are present with the Army in the field, know, of course, better than anybody else can possibly know, what are the wants of the men under their care, and to what extent the Sanitary Commission has been able to supply them. We therefore beg for the public satisfaction, no less than for our own, to call attention to the following testimony. It will be seen, by those who will have the goodness to read it, that the condition of the government storehouses in New York, has not necessarily any bearing on the actual sanitary state of the men in camp at the seat of war.

My Dear Sir—I have just been examining the consolidated weekly reports of sick and wounded of the divisions comprising the 17th Corps, and also the inspection reports of the surgeons-in-chief of divisions, and, so far as made, that of the acting medical inspector of the corps, Surgeon John M. Woodworth, 1st Illinois Artillery, and am so gratified with the condition of health exhibited, that I cannot refrain from expressing my thanks and obligations to the United States and Western Sanitary Commissions; the immediate and active agencies which have been, under Providence, largely instrumental in preserving the health of the troops, and thus maintaining a state of efficiency rarely equalled, and perhaps never surpassed.

Coming to the present location from the long march of nearly eight hundred miles from Memphis to Knoxville, and so far back; and fighting at Colliersville, Cherokee, Tuscumbia, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Ringgold, and losing throughout, in killed, wounded and missing, nearly two thousand men; the gratification of the gallant corps could hardly shape itself in words, when, on reaching at last a resting place —weary, worn, ragged, footsore and hungry— it found the inevitable Sanitary Commission, with their supplies of vegetables, delicacies, hospital supplies of food and clothing, and experienced once more the benefits of that active and loving sympathy, which, in its organization and results, challenges history for a parellel, and which, in its never-wearying love, labor, sacrifice, hopefulness, broad catholic charity, and courage-inspiring words of cheer, corresponds fittingly with, and is a glorious pendant to, the patriotism, valor, endurance and high-heartedness of the noble army—braving disease and death—enduring all things in the present, and hoping all things in the future—fighting for those altars and fires, at and around which they are daily made to feel they are perpetually remembered. This is as it should be. The soldier battling for his country and home; and home, stretching out its hand of sympathy and bountifulness to his battle-cry of "Liberty and Union," answering with words of love and hope; and when, through wounds and sickness, the arms fall from the manly hands which have carried them so often, and so far, into the ranks of the foe, holding out unfailingly those loving and untiring arms which carry cheer, and succor, and renovation to him, whose loss might otherwise be certain and irremediable.

This view of the far-reaching and beneficial influences flowing from the projection (so to speak,) of home into the field, is, I am convinced, not sufficiently dwelt upon. During a term of service commencing a few days after the fall of Fort Sumter, and nearly all the time in the field, I have witnessed both its patent and palpable effects, and those more intangible and recondite results, visible in the individual only to the observant student, but known and recognized in the mass as the base and groundwork of the efficiency, tone, moral of the army. In this electric chain of material aid and sympathy—this knowledge and confidence that, go where he may, the arms and comforts of home are extended to him—that makes the soldier buoyant, hopeful, brave — defiant of danger, because he knows, if sickness or wounds result from his performance of duty, that preparations have been made for the very event by loving hands of mothers, wives, sweethearts and sisters; and that the hoards of the rich and the earnings of toil-worn hands are freely drawn upon to support and renovate the dearly remembered ones who have gone forth from all the homes of the land to fight for and restore the Union.

I am satisfied, from this long and familiar intercourse with the army in active service, that many are brave, even reckless, both because of the knowledge that they are watched by loving eyes, that fill with proud and happy tears when they do nobly; and because they are "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust," that, happen what may, preparation and provision have been made for the emergency,

even against their hour and manner of suffering.

The soldiers look with confidence to the Commissions for prophylactics, also; and the liberal distribution of vegetables has been productive of incalculable good, by preventing that deterioration and deprivation of the system, which is the precursor of typhus, scurvy and all those formidable evils, which arise in the army from derangements of the nutritive function. The Medical Department of the army supplies bountifully, now, what is needed in the way of medicines and hospital stores; those medical officers whose ideas of service and administration were found incompatible with the needs of the emergency and the spirit of the times, having been forced to yield their notions, or pushed aside altogether. So far, then, as this portion of the army is concerned, it seems to me that the greatest amount of good may be done in the way of prevention; and I would respectfully urge, as my opinion of the method of bringing the greatest good to the greatest number, that the Commissions should direct the large-hearted liberality of the soldiers' friends towards gathering and forwarding to the army those vegetables which are the most difficult to procure on the part of the Commissary Department, or which are not in the army ration, and which have proved so valuable hitherto in the prevention of disease, arising from the derangement of the function of nutrition and the depraved condition of system, which is nearly certain to follow confinement to one class of food. The occupancy for a long time past of this part of the country by both armies, has stripped it of supplies, and many of the inhabitants are forced to apply to the Army Commissary for subsistence.

This corps, belonging to the moving column, and "Great Class in Geography," under the tuition of three eminent instructors, Sherman, Blair and Logan, the constant change of place has enabled it to gather whatever of a variety a larger space of country afforded; but it is now dependent upon the supply brought to it in common with the Army of the Cumberland, over a heavily burdened railroad, and which, though good in quality and now plentiful in quantity, is still limited in variety, and occasionally deficient in those articles which are especially desirable.

The health of our troops is now so excellent, that the greatest expectations may be based upon their efficiency in the coming campaign; and, if the articles mentioned can be furnished, I have no fear that the number of sick will exceed the four per cent. now reported, although the months of February and March are most trying to troops who are allowed to deteriorate during the change from winter to spring.

I should remark that only four per cent. are excused from duty, and only two per cent. are really so ill as to need medical attendance. In many regiments there is not an inmate of a regimental hospital. We have not sent a man to general hospital since leaving Bridgeport, on Christmas, and have at this place a post hospital mainly for the care of sick belonging to the Provost Guard, on duty in town, quartermaster and citizen employees, &c.; less than twenty in all, being reported as "remaining sick." I know that this information will be gratifying to those who bear in remembrance the patriotic citizen who has become a soldier, and to you, the representatives of those Sanitary Commissions, whose bounties I have witnessed during so long a period, and under so many trying and desperate circumstances. And it is with a warm and grateful feeling at my heart that I declare, that in a service of nearly three years, performed in the States of Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, I have never been in circumstances, however trying, in positions, however desperate and hopeless, or in places of danger, however great and imminent, but either preceding us, close by our side, or following in our very footsteps, were to be found the active, self-sacrificing, ubiquitous agents of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, braving disease, and danger, and death, in the pursuit and exercise of a noble philanthropy, which will for ever entitle them to the gratitude of their country, and to the proud appellation of "The Soldiers' Friend."

I am, sincerely and truly, your friend,

(Signed,)

CHARLES MCMILLAN,

Surgeon U. S. Vols., Medical Director 15th A. C.

DR. A. N. READ,

U. S. Sanitary Commission.

HEADQUARTERS MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
99TH REGT. ILLINOIS INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS,
INDIANOLA, Texas, *Feb.* 15, 1864.

SIR—Permit me, through you, to return my thanks to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, for the benefits derived by my regiment, from it.

The following statement will show you the incalculable value of your Commission to troops in the field:

I have three men whose discharge papers I had made out and forwarded. These papers came back approved, and an order for the men to report in New Orleans for their final discharge from the service, on account of chronic diarrhea. In the meantime I had procured from you corn starch, beef stock, condensed milk, and sherry

wine, which I had prepared for them, and on this diet they have been rapidly recovering, and, in my opinion, will be fit for full duty in thirty days; thus saving three good soldiers for the Government.

I may add, that in no other way could I have procured these articles, as they are not supplied by the Government to troops in the field.

Very respectfully,

J. K. LEDLIE,

Surgeon, 99th Regt., Illinois Infantry Volunteers.

To EDWARD MITCHELL, ESQ.,
U. S. Sanitary Commission Agent.

MURFREESBORO', TENN.,
February 20th, 1864.

To Dr. Reed, Sanitary Commission:

SIR:—Having lately seen various newspaper articles charging the Agents of the Sanitary Commission with carelessness and fraud in the appropriation, use, and distribution of supplies furnished by the loyal people of the North, for the Army, I desire to assert, on my own knowledge, that these charges, as far as they relate to certain specific times or places, are either unintentionally or wilfully false.

In March last I was assigned to duty upon the staff of Major-General Rosencrans, as Medical Inspector—a position that gave me ample opportunity of witnessing the working of the Sanitary Commission. Prior to the battle of Chickamauga, my intercourse with the Commission was slight; but afterwards I saw sufficient to warrant me in declaring that not only does a vast majority of its supplies reach those for whom they are intended, but that the amount of good done by them is beyond compensation. I know that from their depot at Stevenson, Ala., after that battle, immense quantities of supplies were forwarded to Chattanooga for the use of the wounded, and that more would have been sent could transportation have been obtained, and that the supplies (save such as were stolen) were used in, and were a perfect God-send to the hospitals there. I was present when the supplies from Stevenson from the Quartermaster's, Commissary's and Sanitary Commission, were sent to Sequatchie Valley, to establish a Soldier's Home for feeding the wounded in transit from Chattanooga to the hospitals in the rear, and I know that they were put in the hands of a good and reliable man, who had been the Medical Director of the Department, and detailed by General Rosencrans to take charge of the post. This Home was afterwards transferred to Kelly's Ferry. In my capacity as Inspector, and in obedience to orders, I visited that point several times. It was under the charge of Surgeon Failor, 19th A. V. I., and Rev. Mr. Kennedy, and no wounded or sick soldier passed that point without receiving all the care and attention that circumstances would permit. That many "shoulder-strapped gentry" were also fed, is true; they could get food and lodging nowhere else; and from Major-Generals to Second Lieutenants, were most thankful for the aid and comfort they received. I know that after the battles of Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Ringgold, &c., large quantities of Sanitary stores were issued to the sick and wounded. Mr. Reed, the Agent at Chattanooga, received every few days instructions from G. Pierce, Surgeon U. S. A., Medical Director of the Department, as to what articles to bring forward, and they were distributed to, and used by those needing them, and for whom they were designed.

In December last I took charge of over 200 wounded and sick, whom it was necessary to remove from Chattanooga to the rear. When the boat touched at Kelly's Ferry, the Sanitary Commission's Agent there gave me for their use, and they got them, such articles of food as could be used, and a liberal supply. When I arrived at Bridgeport, Ala., with my charge, I was delayed after getting my men into the cars for nearly a whole day, and the Sanitary Commission there furnished them with coffee, whisky, food, blankets, shirts, socks, drawers, pants, &c., to every man who expressed a wish for, or had need of such articles. On leaving Nashville for Louisville, I found attached to my train a Sanitary Commission car, supplied with bunks clean and nice, and an abundance of first-rate food and cooking utensils, and every man on that train was fed with food as abundant as good, and as well cooked as they could desire, and I doubt not would take great pleasure in branding as liars all who traduce the Sanitary Commission.

I make this statement without solicitation, and as a mere act of justice to parties interested, and conscientiously believe that the abuse bestowed upon the Commission owes its origin to ignorance of what it really does do, positive malevolence, jealousy, or else is from those who have sought for, but have failed to receive from the Commission, favors to which they had no right, and have thus sought to vent their spite.

Most respectfully,
Your obediant servant,
(Signed) HENRY N. SEYS,
Surgeon 15th Ohio Vols.

NASHVILLE, *February* 26, 1864.

To Dr. J. S. Newberry, Secretary
Western Department Sanitary Commission.

SIR:—I take pleasure in being able to forward to you the preceding testimony. It is specially

valuable, as Dr. Seys has been for the last year Medical Inspector of the Army of the Cumberland, and as such, has been constantly visiting camps, for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting to the Medical Director the condition and wants of the sick and wounded. It is true that the Sanitary Commission give most of their goods designed for the sick through the Surgeons in charge. The Surgeons are the regularly authorized agents of tne Government to watch over the sick and wounded, and supply their wants. As a class, they work faithfully, honestly and laboriously; and, with very few exceptions, they faithfully distribute the gifts of the Commission. What person of good judgment would, if he could, put a can of preserved fruit, a bottle of wine, or other articles in the hands of the sick, leaving them to judge how much, and when, they should use them? It is not safe to do so. We are compelled to trust the Surgeons. We can do so safely.

Yours truly,

A. N. Read.

THE ARMY IN TENNESSEE.

The past month has brought with it no great battle in this Department, yet there have been constant notes of preparation, and the agents of the Commission have been unusually active. No more store-rooms have been opened, and there has been no special change in those previously established. Rev. O. Kennedy reports favorably from Murfreesboro' and from the soldiers in the hospitals there. I have received and forwarded to you valuable testimonials of the good done there by the Commission. These were given unsought, and disproved the false statements made by letter-writers that our supplies are given to the officers.

From Huntsville I learn by Mr. H. Tone, in charge of the store-room, that he has frequent calls for vegetables from the surgeons, who report cases of scorbutis, and on this account are urgent. A portion of the 15th A. C. have left Huntsville, but their sick remain.

Mr. Wm. A. Sutliff has obtained convenient store-rooms and quarters in Stevenson, and his work there is generally commended. There the Alabama House was taken by Government for a Soldiers' Home; is in charge of Government Officers, and by their request we have furnished a large supply of bedding, and for filling the bedticks five bales of straw, which we could not obtain nearer than Louisville; besides the Commission have furnished candlesticks, sconces, and other articles of furniture, as well as vegetables for the table.

At Bridgeport, Mr. E. H. Pocock in charge, is working with his accustomed good judgment and energy. At least thirty-five regiments, and those as needy as any in the army, look to that depot for their supplies; they have, perhaps, received their share, yet it has been but little compared with their wants.

The shipment of stores to Knoxville, and an attempt to identify our unburied or partially buried dead on the field of Chickamauga, has been added to the usual work of the Commission at Chattanooga. M. C. Read, who accompanied the burial party for this purpose, has been in many instances successful. He has also given personal and special attention to preparing for early planting a large hospital garden. The number of discharged and furloughed soldiers, returning from Knoxville and from our divisions now advanced beyond Chattanooga, are so great as to make it necessary to establish at Chattanooga a "Soldiers' Home." Our agents there have been offered a good building, which I hope will soon be ready for use.

In Nashville, during the past month, a most excellent field hospital, admirably planned, has been rapidly built for the accommodation of the still increasing number of cases of small-pox. The number of the other hospitals remains the same. The new small-pox hospital will give great relief to the large number of patients, now over seven hundred. The rooms previously used had been so over-crowded that the mortality had been fearfully large. They were more dreaded by the soldiers than the disease itself, and when they were told "You have the varioloid, and must be sent to that hospital," the answer was, "Then I must die," which conviction was too often verified. This is all changed, and I hope to be able to report hereafter a much less percentage of deaths, on account of improved sanitary condition of the hospital. In this connection it may not be improper for me to state that I inspected the house and hospital, all in one building,

where the refugees are received and their sick cared for. At that time there were over four hundred inmates, mostly women and children, the wives and children of Union men, and of rebels now in arms against the Union. They are here because they must come or starve. They have been made thus destitute by various causes. One Union woman said to me, "They hung my husband and took everything I had, because he was a Union man." Our Government is feeding and clothing them, making no distinction between friends and enemies; and they are sent North, if they desire to go, as many of them do. I saw that these poor, ignorant, half-clad sufferers were not only dreadfully exposed to small-pox themselves, but were liable to spread it over the city and throughout the Northern States. A large proportion of them had never been vaccinated, and I applied to Gov. Johnson to furnish vaccine virus, and order the surgeon in charge to vaccinate all present and each day all who came in. Mr. Oviott, the agent of Gov. Johnson in charge of these people, saw at once the importance of the measure. On his application, Surgeon Clendennin, Medical Director, signed the necessary order to obtain the vaccine virus without delay, and instructed the surgeon in charge to vaccinate all, which, at a subsequent visit, made a few days after, I found had been done.

The "Home" in Nashville has been over-crowded during the past month; they have but one hundred beds, yet they have fed and lodged about two hundred daily. Within the month Gen. Granger, the Post Commander, doubting his authority, refused to issue rations or fuel. On application to Gen. Grant, he replied "Of course it must be done," and gave the necessary order, relieving us from that embarrassment. Soon after, our agent at Chattanooga wrote me that the authorities there were desirous to do all they could for us legally, but could find no authority to issue forage for our horses. We had then but two, but we must have them, and as it was almost impossible to supply ourselves, I again resorted to Gen. Grant, who gave an order that in all parts of his command forage be issued on application of the authorized agents of the Commission, approved by the Post-Commander. I have sent copies of this order to Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Louisville.

For the past eight months the Commission in Nashville has not been able to obtain comfortable quarters. The city is constantly crowded to overflowing; a suitable building was hardly to be found. After long delay, I applied to Gen. Grant, asking for a large house, and, if practicable, plain furniture. By the assistance of Mr. Scovel, our true friend and a good Union man, such a house was found, and Gen. Grant promptly put us in possession, adding to this favor that of paying the rent. We receive such aid with gratitude, as substantial testimonials from the General whom the nation delights to honor, of the value of our work.

The forwarding of stores from Nashville the past month has been mostly done under the superintendance of Mr. Jones, Mr. Robinson being absent on furlough. Mr. Fracker has given his attention principally to the retail business, in which business, however judiciously it may be done, it is difficult to give entire satisfaction. The requisitions from surgeons are often much larger than we have the means of filling, and occasionally soldiers have forged orders. Both branches of the work have been well done. In general the goods called for have been forwarded promptly; and when requisitions could not be filled, so far as possible satisfactory explanations have been made. Rev. Mr. Hoblit, after a short leave of absence, has returned with new zeal to his work of "special relief," and in this work no one can be more successful. In many cases of inquiry after friends long lost, he has been able to obtain satisfactory answers, after others of less experience have looked in vain. In his intercourse with the officers, careful to ask for only what is just, he obtains all he asks. We have not in this department a more faithful or successful worker.

Rev. Mr. Ingraham and Hon. Mr. Root, both of Milwaukie, are engaged in visiting hospitals and camps in Nashville and vicinity, looking for those in need of special relief, listening patiently to the complaints of the sick and suffering, and encouraging

them to bear unavoidable troubles patiently; or when they can be relieved, kindly furnishing help from the stores of the Commission; or they correct the evil by applying to the nurse, the ward-master, or, if necessary, to the surgeon for help. In this work they are everywhere welcomed by the surgeons.

The calls for help are sometimes such that it is difficult to determine whether we can aid the soldier most, by furnishing the article required, or if it should and could have been procured of Government, induce the officer in charge of the soldiers to obtain it from that source. There is such a thing as making our gifts too cheap—so cheap that they are not appreciated, and so free and easy to be obtained, that sufficient effort is not made to obtain them through Government channels—which are a little more difficult. I have even heard of Surgeons who think it too much trouble to state their wants in writing to the storekeeper, not wishing to give their time to such small matters—that being rather the business of the Steward. There are but few such Surgeons; not more, I should judge, than those who misappropriate Sanitary stores. Applications from Hospitals and Convalescent Camps are not uncommon—the reason assigned being that the patient is "without descriptive roll." In conversing with the parties who make these requests, I am told that clothing cannot be issued in such cases, because soldiers sometimes give wrong names, or make false statements as to the regiments which they belong; and if clothing were issued to such soldiers, the officers issuing would be personally responsible. However, as I believed the record upon which they were received was *prima facie* evidence that they were the persons they represented themselves to be, and if it was legal to give them rations upon this evidence, it was equally so to clothe them, I addressed a note to the Assistant Medical Director in charge of the Hospitals in Nashville, asking him to inform me whether clothing can or cannot be issued to patients in hospital without their descriptive rolls. He replied, "clothing can be issued to all enlisted men without their descriptive rolls;" and at the same time he sent me a note, asking me to inform him if I found any Surgeon who refused to issue to any *needy* soldier. At the same time it has been our rule to supply the applicants at once from our stores, lest they might suffer by the delay. There are also many employees of the Government in hospital, who cannot be thus supplied, not being enlisted men. I hope soon to know that every enlisted soldier needing clothing in all long-established hospitals is furnished, and that the same will be done in Convalescent Camps.

The Hospital Train between Nashville and Chattanooga, in charge of Surgeon Myers, is in excellent order; the cars and beds are clean, and the sick and wounded are well-fed, but all sick and wounded have not had the benefit of this train. In cold weather some have been passed over the road in box-cars without fire. Several instances of suffering from this cause coming to my knowledge, I notified Dr. G. Penn, Medical Director, asking him that such men be retained in hospital until they can be sent on the Hospital Train; or if this is not always practicable, that the best seats in the passenger-cars be given them rather than to well soldiers, or to those civilians who are visiting the Army for the purpose of speculation, or to gratify curiosity. I have not yet heard from my request, but believe the evil will be corrected.

The Hospital Cars between Nashville and Louisville, are by no means what they should be. There are not enough of them, and they are not good enough. Dr. Barnum, who has long had charge of the train, and has done all that could be done to aid his patients, informs me that he expects soon to be furnished with a better train.

By telegrams from our agents at Chattanooga, and information confidentially furnished us, we have learned that an extra supply of stores may be needed; acting upon this information, all the reserve stores in Nashville have been forwarded. More have been asked for from Louisville, and are already on the way, and thus I trust we shall be prepared for every emergency.

Mr. Ingraham informs me that comparatively few of the soldiers in Nashville Hospitals know that they receive aid from the Commission. So long have the Surgeons been accustomed to draw from our stores

that the novelty is gone. Like the air we breathe, although used daily, they are used without any special thought, but as a matter of course; when drawn, they are placed with those drawn from the Government Commissary in a common store room, and issued with them; and although they may be used with strict fidelity, they are not known to the patient as Sanitary stores. The novelty of receiving them has passed, and it has ceased to cause remark by the attendants, as it once did—the Surgeons resting in the knowledge, as we have also done, that the stores were faithfully used—have not given sufficient thought to the importance of all the sick and wounded knowing, and even testifying, that they receive these gifts, in order to satisfy the contributors at home, and encourage them in their work.

Recently, vegetables have been issued to regiments in the vicinity of Nashville, and as their reception was a comparatively new experience, they have made much more impression, and cheerful testimony of their value is being furnished. Sufficient staple garden seeds for large hospital gardens have been purchased and sent to Murfreesboro', Tullahoma, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. Experienced gardeners have also been secured to take charge of the gardens.

Regimental Hospitals have been discontinued, and Brigade Hospitals are to take their places. These are to be furnished with one wall tent and one hospital tent for every 350 men present for duty, with axes, spades, camp-kettles, &c., that are necessary.

I have found time during the past month to visit several of the Hospitals of Nashville, but not all. Hospitals, Nos. 1, 15, 8, 19, and the Cumberland Hospital, I found to be in the most excellent condition. Improvements in heating and ventilation in No. 1, are very marked. The Cumberland Hospital is in beautiful working order; its neat and comfortable appearance indicates an unusual degree of interest and systematic management on the part of its Surgeons. Connected with this, as well as with several others, is a light-diet kitchen, in charge of experienced ladies, who receive the stores furnished, either by Hospital fund or from the Commission; and under the direction of these ladies are prepared all the delicacies which each Surgeon orders for his sick. Thus the sick man receives such food and such quantities as his Surgeon thinks best for him, and so well are they supplied, that a lady going through one division found but one grumbler, and he wanted some canned peaches, and said his mother and sisters gave him preserves when he was sick at home. This is a large hospital, capable of containing about 2,000 patients. It has no chapel—no reading-room—no place for writing. Its Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Day, Dr. McDermant, Surgeon in charge, and his Assistants, have asked that the Commission erect a suitable building for these purposes. A plain one—capable of accommodating 250 men—would not only be a means of moral improvement, but would, in my opinion, by giving the sick and convalescing a place to retire to, where they can read and write to loved ones at home, be eminently a Sanitary measure.

I have to continue to report that the great want of the Army is fresh vegetables. The calls from hospitals and regiments are frequent and urgent, and compared with the demand, but few are furnished by either the Government or the Commission.

Capt. Lytle, Chief Commissary, informs me that about the first of January, 300,000 pounds of potatoes were spoiled by frost, and since then none have been issued from this post to troops in the field, yet there has usually been a supply for the hospitals. There are but few on the way, and I fear that the excessive cold at the North has destroyed a large part of the crop, and with every exertion our supply will be limited. The regiments that have gone home on furlough are returning strengthened, but it should be remembered that only the strong could or would re-enlist, that the sick and feeble were left in camp or hospital; these with the regiments remaining, must be supplied. In almost every camp, if they have not been sent to hospital, are to be found some with gums enlarged and softened, and that bleed at the slightest touch; the teeth are loosened, and in some cases are covered by spongy gums. The legs are full of pain, swollen, and covered with

dark blood-discolored spots under, or on the skin. Decomposition of the blood has so far progressed, that a slight wound, a vaccine vesicle, or a chronic diarrhea, without vegetables, cannot be cured. And worse than all, the victim is so depressed in spirits, that life to him is a burden. Such cases will continue to occur, and not unfrequently, and such can be cured and prevented by a few rations of fresh vegetables. I hope they will be furnished yet more abundantly.—*Dr. Read's Report, Feb.* 29.

THE HOSPITAL.

Narrow beds by one another—
White and low!
Through them softly as in church aisles
Nurses go—
For the hot lips ice drops bringing,
Cold and clear;
Or white eye-lids gently closing,
For the bier.

Strong men, in a moment smitten
Down from strength.
Brave men, now in anguish praying
Death at length.
Burns the night lamp where the watchers,
By the bed,
Write for many a waiting loved one—
"He is dead!"

One lies there in utter weakness—
Shattered, faint—
But his brow wears calm befitting
Martyred saint;
And although the lips must quiver,
They can smile,
As he says, "This will be over
In a while.

"As the old Crusaders, weeping
In delight,
Knelt when Zion's holy city
Rose in sight,
So I fling aside my weapon,
From the din,
To the quietness of Heaven
Entering in.

"Standing in the solemn shadow
Of God's hand,
Love of glory fading from me,
Love of land.
I thank God that he has let me
Strike one blow
For His poor and helpless people,
Ere I go."

White and whiter grows the glory
On his brow.
Does he see the Towers of Zion
Rising now?
Stands the doctor, weary, hurried,
By his bed:
"Here is room for one more wounded—
He is dead."

St. Helena, S. C.

"WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR THE SANITARY COMMISSION?"

The following will show that there is plenty of work for the U. S. Sanitary Commission to do. The Commission is making strenuous efforts to supply the wants in Western armies.—Eds.

Office Medical Director, Eleventh Corps,
Lookout Valley, Tenn., *Jan.* 11, 1864.

Sir—In accordance with your desire, expressed during your visit on the 6th, I take pleasure in laying before the Sanitary Commission, through you, the following statement of the present hygienic condition of the Eleventh Army Corps, and earnestly solicit any assistance that the Commission may be able to furnish.

Reports from regimental medical officers show an alarming increase of sickness during the last month, the number daily excused from duty on this account varying from five to fifteen per cent. of the effective force, while the number prescribed for, of course, much exceeds this. The principal disease, that, indeed, which in its prevalence, its obstinacy under treatment, and its frequent fatal termination, becomes our most dangerous adversary, is chronic diarrhea.

Within the last three months the One Hundred and Forty-first New York Volunteers has lost from this cause six per cent. of its aggregate strength present, while the mortality in the One Hundred and Forty-third New York Volunteers is even greater than this, amounting to twenty-five deaths since the 1st of November, 1863, to an average strength of four hundred and fifty men. Of those remaining, one hundred and seventy-four are reported sick by Assistant Surgeon Croft. Some of these have died in corps hospital, some in camp; and it has been observed, as a strange and enigmatical feature of the disease, that its victims have been the sturdiest and ruggedest men in the regiment. No effect whatever has resulted from the various plans of treatment tried. Some of the men did duty up to the hour of their death; and several surgeons have expressed their astonishment, that so near the end men could display the muscular force they do. Such is not the character nor cause of ordinary camp diarrhea, and it leads one to seek some complication which may explain it.

I accordingly sent a circular to each senior regimental medical officer of the corps, desiring him to search with care for any symptoms of a scorbutic taint among the men, and at the same time to state what particular articles were

most needed to establish healthy vital action. The result was most instructive. Though few cases of positively marked scurvy were reported, the symptoms of the scorbutic blood-poison, the peculiar gums, the hemorrhagic cachexia, the want of union in new, and the reopening of old wounds, the listlessness and lassitude, the purpural discoloration of the skins, &c., were noted in very many of the regiments present, viz.: in Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers; Thirty-third New Jersey Volunteers; One Hundred and Thirty-fourth, One Hundred and Forty-first, One Hundred and Forty-third, One Hundred and Fifty-fourth New York Volunteers; Twenty-first Wisconsin Volunteers, and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteers.

The type of diseases is low, the fevers of a malarial and sporadic character, rapidly assuming a typhoid aspect, and the general appearance of the men, particularly in the regiments comparatively lately enlisted, is depressed. They are in need of clothing and blankets. Many have no change of clothing, nor have had for many weeks, consequently they are filthy in the extreme. This is especially the case with the Thirty-third New Jersey. All the hospital stores of this regiment—and it came out excellently provided for by the State authorities—were lost in the Tennessee River, by the capsizing of the boat in which they were. Shoes, blankets and pants have not yet been furnished in sufficient quantities by the Quartermaster's Department, and changes of stockings, shirts and drawers are generally wanted. The Commissary Department is tasked to its utmost to furnish the absolute necessaries of life, and there have been no issues of potatoes or onions since our return from the fall campaign. A limited supply of beans and rice has, as far as I am aware, been the only issue of dry vegetables, and one three-fourths' ration of whisky, partly distilled, the only issue of spirits in the same time. The amount of fresh meat furnished has also been limited.

The following extracts from the reports of different regimental surgeons will illustrate our present condition:

"Not over one-third of our men have a change of under-clothing, and not one-half have sufficient clothing to keep them warm when on duty; nearly, or quite all, are compelled to do their cooking in parts of old worn-out canteens." [Surgeon Spooner, 61st O.V.I.]

"Diarrhea prevails to an alarming extent, and of a character not be controlled to any great extent by medicines. About two-thirds of the whole command are more or less affected by it. The rations are scanty and ill-cooked, scarcely any vegetables being furnished." [Assistant Surgeon Mathews, 143d New York Volunteers.]

"For nearly a year no full rations of vegetables have been issued to the One Hundred and Forty-first New York Volunteers. During this time vegetables have not been issued in one-tenth the quantities allowed by the army regulations to men in the field. The men have lost their relish for hard bread and bacon. Their blood is impoverished, and symptoms of scorbutus appear. When they get sick it is impossible to treat them with desirable success from this cause." [Surgeon Beaks, One Hundred and Forty-first New York Volunteers.]

"The prevailing disease is diarrhea, and other affections of the alimentary canal, which can be traced directly to the insufficiency and irregularity of rations and cooking, and particularly to having been without any vegetables.'' [Surgeon Hubschman, Twenty-sixth Wisconsin Volunteers.]

"An unusually large number of our men are suffering from diarrhea, and of that character over which medical skill has but little control. We can attribute the condition only, I think, to an impoverished condition of blood caused by an improper and too scanty diet." [Assistant Surgeon Hong, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth New York Volunteers.]

I would not have you think that this is owing to any lack of efficiency in the officers managing the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, for I am convinced that as far as those in this corps are concerned, no exertion has been spared and no trouble avoided to remedy it; but such are the facts, and I state them plainly, in order to explain the present sanitary condition of the corps, and to lay its claims fairly before the Sanitary Commission.

The articles that are imperatively needed, both as prophylactics with the well and remedies for the ill, are potatoes, onions, vinegar, soft bread, dried and sub-acid fruits, fermented cabbage, pickles, soup and spirits in diet, and shoes and under-clothing of all kinds, in quantities sufficient to restore a normal functional action and furnish healthy blood for several thousand men.

Until this change is effected the surgeon must continue to witness his most approved remedies fail, and see his cases approach an inevitably fatal termination. It is the unanimous opinion of all the medical officers that no symptoms of improvement are manifesting themselves, that, on the contrary, the hygienic condition of the corps is deteriorating day by day. We need help, and we need it soon; and I cannot refrain

rom repeating my earnest solicitations to the Sanitary Commission, through you, that early efforts be made to provide at least to some extent for these, our urgent necessities. I am aware how many appeals for aid the Commission receives, but I am also aware how nobly it responds to them, and this it is that emboldens me to state our wants fully, and perhaps with some importunity.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

DR. G. BRINTON,
Surgeon U. S. Vols., Medical Director Eleventh Army Corps.

DR. A. N. READ,
U. S. Sanitary Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

RAFFLING AT THE FAIR.

LETTER FROM THE SANITARY COMMISSION—ACTION OF THE LADIES.

The following letter from the Standing Committee of the Sanitary Commission, gives the reasons for prohibiting raffling at the Sanitary Fair, and it will be seen that the ladies of the Executive Board have abandoned the practice, in deference to the judgment of the Commission:

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, No. 823 Broadway,
NEW YORK, *Jan.* 27, 1864.

To the Executive Board of the Metropolitan Fair:

LADIES.—The Standing Committee of the United States Sanitary Commission, having had the subject of "raffling" brought before them, in connection with the Metropolitan Fair, desire to say, very respectfully, to your Committee, as they have said to the Gentlemen's Committee, that they are deliberately opposed to any resort to this questionable means of disposing of any of the articles on sale.

They are opposed to it on these grounds:

1. It is illegal; and an institution like the Sanitary Commission, designed to minister to the wants of those who suffer in maintaining the cause of law and order in our national conflict, ought not. directly or indirectly, to give the least countenance to an illegal proceeding, even if winked at by the authorities or authorized by custom.

2. Without debating the principle involved, the actual influence of an appeal to the *lot* has been found so perilous to the social and moral interests of society, that its disuse is precisely proportioned to the advance of law, order, and moral and Christian culture. As public money lotteries have yielded to the rise of moral sentiment in this community, is it not time that all other kinds should follow them, and is not the present moment a good one to strike at the root of the custom of raffling at fairs, which has survived most other forms of this evil?

3. The Sanitary Commission, owing whatever pecuniary or other support it has received to the confidence reposed in its law-abiding and moral character, feels that no increase in the pecuniary results of the proposed fair, accruing from the use of any means subject to just question on either ground, could repay it for the loss of confidence which it must suffer from such support.

It cheerfully accepts any deduction from the probable returns from the fair, occasioned by adherence to the highest principles in the conduct of it. Understanding that the Ladies' Committee, inspired by high moral considerations, have already adopted rules restraining the more obvious evils of raffling, we cannot doubt that they will rejoice to perfect their good work, by abolishing the custom. They have hesitated to do this, probably, only from fears of surrendering the pecuniary interest of the fair. They will no longer hesitate, we trust, when we express our full readiness to run all the risk of this loss.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,
W. H. VAN BUREN,
C. R. AGNEW,
G. T. STRONG,
WOLCOTT GIBBS,
Standing Committee of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

—

The following reply to the above communication, without the date of its passage, was received by the Rev. Dr. Bellows, in an official communication from Mrs. Hamilton Fish, President of the Ladies' Committee, on Friday, Feb. 19:

Resolved, The ladies of the Executive Board, associated in a great enterprise under the auspices of the Sanitary Commission, have resolved that, in deference to a formal petition, sent to them by the Standing Committee of that Commission, and in obedience to the law, they do hereby abandon all raffles and lotteries, as a means of raising money at their proposed fair.

—

LETTER FROM REV. DR. BELLOWS.

NEW YORK, *Feb.* 22, 1864.

In sending you the correspondence between the Standing Committee of the United States Sanitary Commission and the lady managers of the Metropolitan Fair, on the subject of "raffling," I beg leave to say that when the fair was started and the generous services of the managers were obtained, the objections to raffling had not taken so clear a form as to give any body the impression that it could be abolished. The most that was hoped for was that the practice could be regulated, and to this point the Ladies' Committee courageously addressed themselves. It was well known that even Church fairs profited by this custom, and that clergymen's salaries had been eked out by its fruits. It is not surprising that a sudden and vehement expression of scruples, imputing bluntness to the consciences of the managers of the fair, should have aroused some indignation and retarded their disposition to yield, under moral duress and threats of the law, to such an unexpected outbreak of conscientiousness. The truth is, the subject is new. The moral sensibility of any considerable portion of the public in regard to it is new. Pious and conscientious people have raffled too lately, with perfect innocency of feeling, to be able at once to appreciate the moral evil of the usage, or the scruples of those who oppose it; and there are still many thorough and excellent Christians

who regard the custom, when confined to benevolent fairs, as wholly unobjectionable.

On the other hand, the same may be said of most of the evils which have yielded to the rising tide of Christian sentiment. They have enjoyed the countenance of many of the excellent and judicious, up to the very hour of their fall. Things which are not evil in themselves, but only made evil by those tendencies, are not easily characterized. Those who have not had special reasons for considering their tendencies do not see their evil. The Standing Committee of the Sanitary Commission, having had their most anxious attention drawn to all the consequences of the custom of raffling, have thought it their duty to discourage it, on the grounds given in their communication to the ladies. They desire, however, to acknowledge their full appreciation of the difficulties which have embarrassed the managers of the fair in adopting their conclusion, and to express their grateful sense of the ladies' compliance with their wishes.

It is not to be concealed that the pecuniary success and immediate interest of the fair are greatly imperilled by the abandonment of a custom, which has enlivened fairs as well as filled their treasuries. Let those, then, who with ourselves have felt it to be a duty to discountenance "raffling," turn their minds to some practical suggestions for supplying innocent substitutes for the custom. Is our invention so poverty-stricken that we cannot devise some other means than this for giving interest to our fairs? Above all, let that portion of the public who rejoice in this effort to stop a practice which was at least first cousin, if not own brother, to the "lottery," see to it, that the interests of sick and wounded soldiers do not suffer by the high ground now taken in regard to raising the means for their succor.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS.

THE COMMISSION AND THE NAVY.

From September 13th, 1862, to February 16th, 1864, the Sanitary Commission have sent to the naval hospital at New Orleans, and to twenty-three different Government vessels, the following supplies: 129 cases of farina, 120 cases of corn starch, 264 cases of condensed milk, 541 cases of concentrated lemonade, 95 cases of chocolate, 70 bottles of wine and brandy, and 54 lbs. of arrowroot. Also, dried and cased fruit and vegetables, tea, tapioca, pickles, sugar, cocoa, soap, jelly, &c., in smaller quantities. Also, 216 sheets, 106 fans, 186 handkerchiefs, 64 pair of drawers, 137 pillow cases, 154 hospital shirts, 516 towels, and 243 books.

"PHILANTHROPIC RESULTS OF THE WAR."

Among the donations to the Metropolitan Fair, for the benefit of the Commission, there is one which, for obvious reasons, deserves special mention. A merchant of this city has procured the preparation of a little volume, compiled with great care and labor, from official and other authentic sources, entitled, "The Philanthropic Results of the War in America," in which are given, with much interesting detail, the amounts contributed by states, counties, towns, and individuals, for the bounties, aid to families, care and comfort of the soldiers; and brief histories of the numerous organizations, national and local, for the relief of the sick and wounded, assistance to freedmen, to white refugees, &c., &c. The work is one of material interest, and will have, we doubt not, a wide sale. The generous donor has given the plates, and an edition of 5,000 copies, to the Commission. It is a neat 18mo volume, of about 160 pages, and is sold at 50 cents. It is for sale at the Fair, and is, or will be soon, on sale by the booksellers generally.

COAL FROM ENGLAND FOR THE FAIR.

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CO.,
22 Old Broad Street, E. C., 27*th February*, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. BELLOWS—The British ship "Gibraltar," Captain Durham, consigned to H. D. Brookman, 37 South Street, New York, will leave here in a few days for Sunderland, to take on board the 1,000 tons of coal for New York. We shall raise the money here and in Paris to pay the freight and insurance, so that the Sanitary Commission may receive the entire proceeds of the sale of the coals. This will be the very best quality of gas coal, and I most sincerely hope that some of our rich gas companies of New York will be willing to pay you an extra price for it. Hoping that the ship "Gibraltar' will have a safe and rapid passage to New York, and that the Almighty will shower every blessing upon you, and your noble efforts to relieve our sick and wounded soldiers,

I remain,

My dear Dr. Bellows,

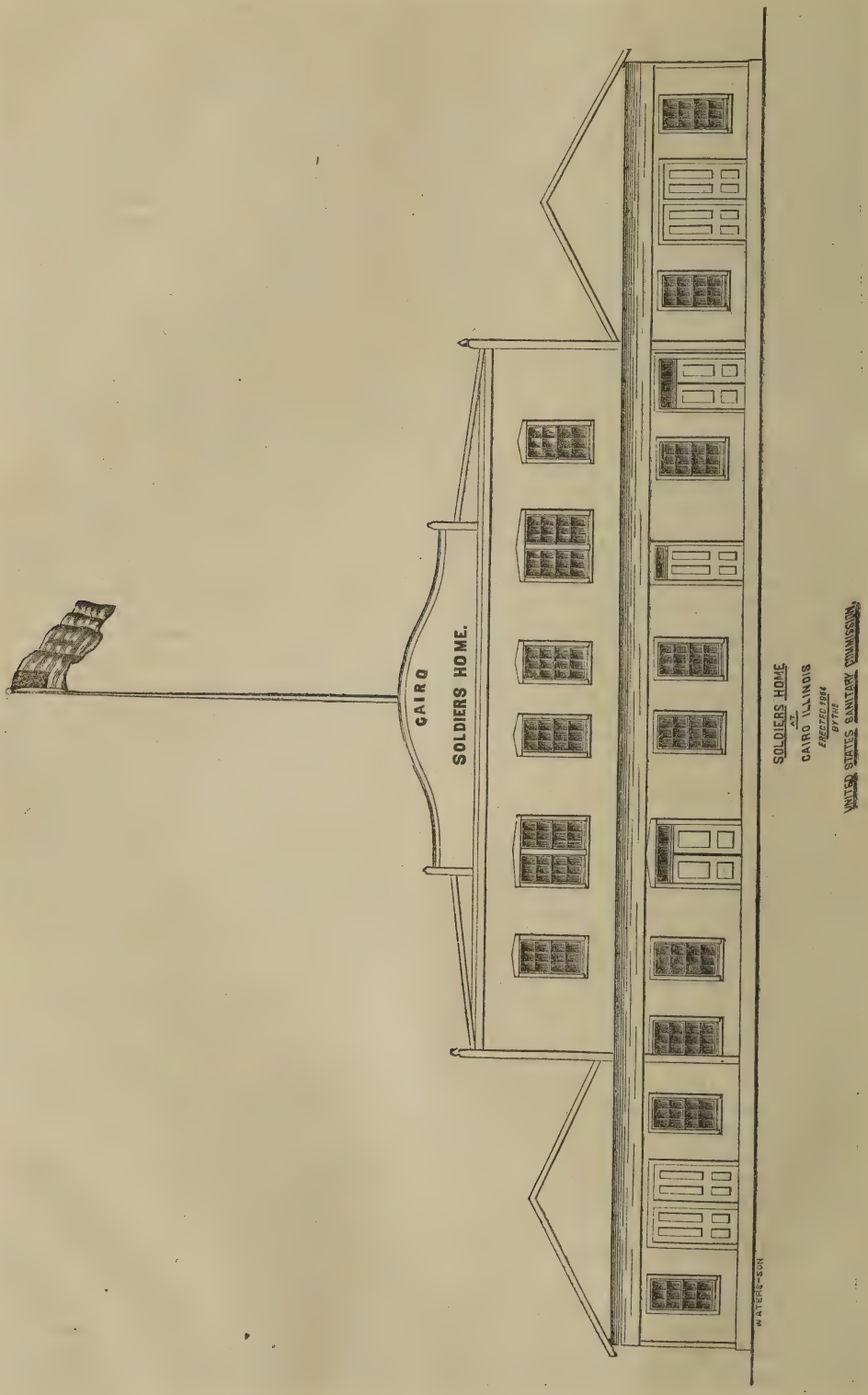
Very truly your friend,

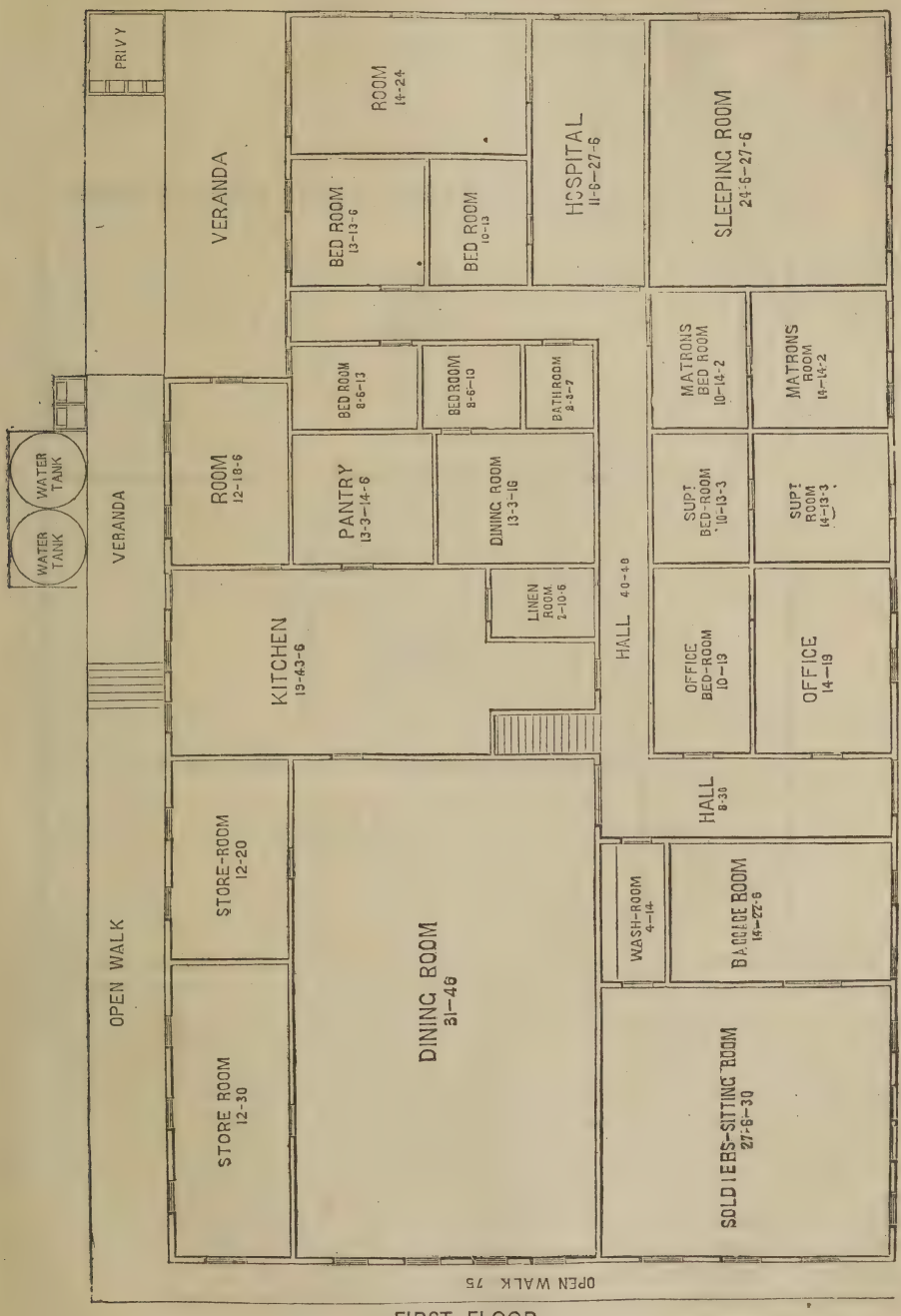
(Signed,)

CYRUS W. FIELD.

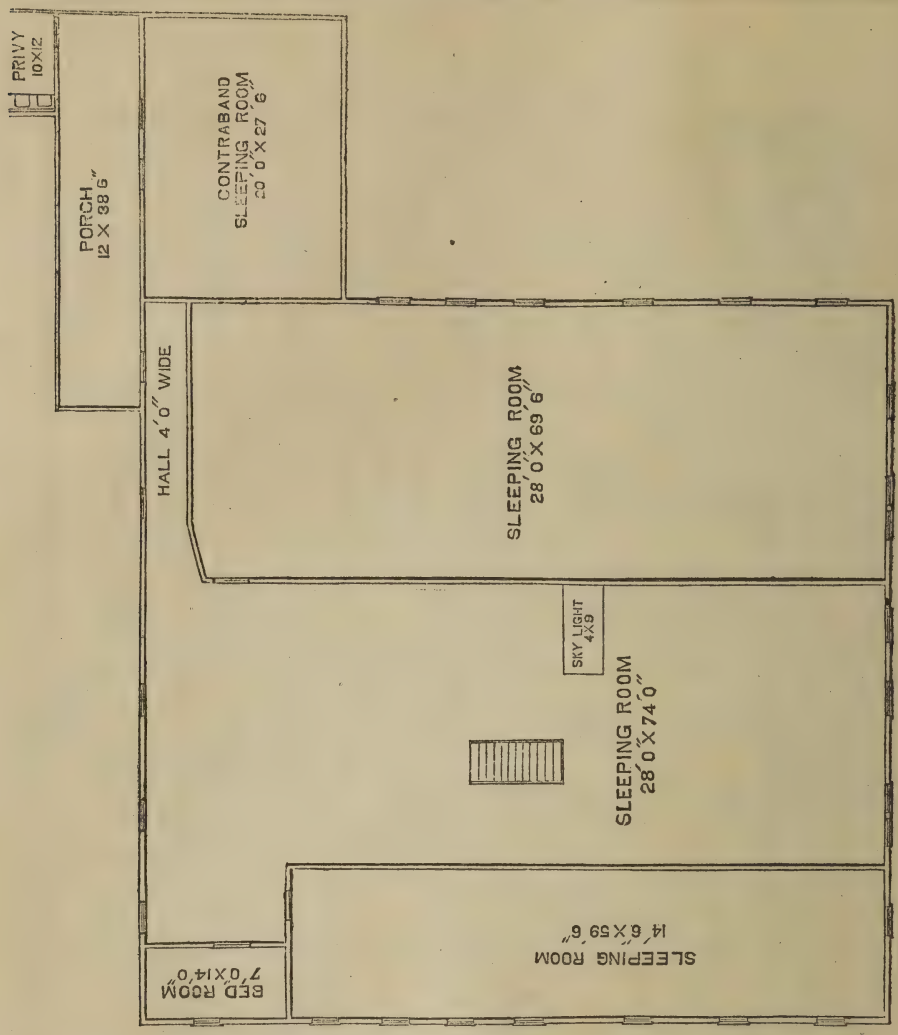
REV. DR. BELLOWS,
President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission,
East 20th Street, New York.

G. G. Edgerly, Esq., writing from Brownsville, Texas, under date of February 20th, 1864, says that General Herron, as well as the officers and men in his command, express many thanks for the stores already furnished, and are very desirous that the Commission should maintain a permanent department at that post. General Herron has authorized the Commission to ship stores from New Orleans on any Government transport coming to this point, (Brownsville.)


CAIRO
SOLDIERS HOME.
SOLDIERS HOME
AT
CAIRO ILLINOIS
ERECTED 1864
BY THE
UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION.
WATERS-SON


PRIVY
VERANDA
ROOM 14-24
BED ROOM 13-13-6
BED ROOM 10-13
HOSPITAL 11-6-27-6
SLEEPING ROOM 24-6-27-6
28
WATER TANK
WATER TANK
VERANDA
ROOM 12-18-6
BED ROOM 8-6-13
BED ROOM 8-6-10
BATH ROOM 8-3-7
MATRONS BED ROOM 10-14-2
MATRONS ROOM 14-14-2
PANTRY 13-3-14-6
DINING ROOM 13-3-16
SUPT BED-ROOM 10-13-3
SUPT ROOM 14-13-3
KITCHEN 19-4-3-6
LINEN ROOM 1 2-10-6
HALL 40-4-0
OFFICE BED-ROOM 10-19
OFFICE 14-19
72-4
HALL 8-30
OPEN WALK
STORE-ROOM 12-20
WASH-ROOM 4-14
BAGGAGE ROOM 14-22-6
STORE ROOM 12-30
DINING ROOM 31-46
SOLDIERS-SITTING ROOM 27-6-30
WATER-CLOSET 2-8
OPEN WALK 75

FIRST FLOOR.



SOLDIER'S HOME AT CAIRO, ILL.

The above is the plan of the "Home" which has just been established at Cairo, for the relief of the discharged and furloughed soldiers and recruits, passing up and down the river. It differs little in arrangement, though in many ways a great improvement upon those already in existence at Nashville at other places. Except in the relief afforded after a great battle, there is probably no branch of the labors of the Commission in which so much is done for the prevention of suffering as in the maintenance of these Homes. The eagerness of sick or wounded men to reach home is so great, that they in a vast number of cases leave the army with little thought as to difficulties of the journey, with very little preparation, and little consideration for their own strength; and where they do not come to grief through physical weakness, they are very apt to do so through ignorance or thoughtlessness. The necessity for Stations along the great routes, therefore, in which the sick and weary can find rest and attention, and the estrays can find counsel and shelter, has been manifest from the outset. The Commission has been endeavoring to meet the want as far as it means would permit, and it has now "Homes" or "Lodges"—which are Homes on a small scale, at a great number of points. Cairo is a very important Station, as nearly all the troops going South and West pass through it, as do all those coming up the river. We are sorry to be compelled to omit the monthly reports of the work done at the "Homes," at Memphis and Nashville, in this number, for want of space.

THE COMMISSION IN RUSSIA.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
ST. PETERSBURG, *Feb.* 9, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR:—Although not personally addressed in relation to the subject of your late communication to the American Minister here, I nevertheless feel too envious of the moral distinction of being useful—in however humble a manner to the cause, with which you have so nobly identified your honored name, and given the inestimable benefit of your untiring services—to spare any exertions to promote its pious purposes.

With this view I have addressed myself to several loyal Americans here—and I am happy to add there are none in Petersburg but loyal ones—who have generously responded to my applications, by placing at my disposal sums of money, which they have desired me to expend along with Gen. Clay's, and my own, in such manner as I deemed best.

I have accordingly purchased such articles *only* as are *manufactured in Russia*, and which I know to be rare, or unknown in America.

It is important that I say a word concerning the smallness of the whole contribution:

Winter is upon us, in all its Northern rigors; the communication by water with the Western World is wholly cut off; and even by land is rendered precarious and difficult. Under these circumstances a number of large packages would—judging by my past experience—be delayed far beyond the period when they could be turned to account.

Fortunately for the one, which I have the satisfaction of sending now, I have availed myself of the return of Mr. Phelps, our Consul here, who will deliver it to the Sanitary Commission in person.

The number, also, of the contributors is small, but, it must be remembered that our countrymen are never numerous in Russia—and more especially at this season of the year.

With these preliminary explanations, I proceed to subjoin a list of the contents of the case, praying sincerely for the perfect success of the humane and patriotic cause in which so many benevolent and loyal men and women of my native city are engaged.

With sentiments of the highest consideration, I have the honor to be,

Your very ob't humble servant.

HENRY BERGH,
Secretary of Legation.

The Reverend
HENRY W. BELLOWS,
President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, &c.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS IN RUSSIA TO THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION FAIR.

2 decorated vases, made of "felt;" Russian manufacture; cost $23. (Marked A.)

2 dozen photographs of Russian costumes; cost here $6. (Marked B.)

2 elegantly embroidered smoking caps—real gold and silver. (Marked C.)

3 pairs of elegantly embroided slippers. (Marked D.) From Gen. Clay.

1 fire gilt bronze of a water carrier, barrel, two pails and sled. (Marked No. 1.)

1 fire gilt water sled. (Marked No. 2.)

1 fire gilt snow sled, (marked No. 3,) for removing snow from streets of Petersburg.

1 fire gilt model of great bell of Moscow. (Marked 4.)

1 fire gilt fancy bell. (Marked No. 5.)

1 fire gilt, representing the "*Pond*," or pound weight, of Russia. (Marked No. 6.)

2 boxes of Russian "Flower Tea." (Marked 7 and 8.) These teas are very expensive, costing as high, sometimes, as $75 and $100 per pound. From L. Chandor, Esq.

2 models—patron saints of Russia and Peter the Great. (Marked 940.) From Mr. Avery.

1 Holy Family, or "Russian Saints," such as are seen in every palace, cottage, house, and hovel. (Marked No. 11.)

1 porte-monnaie, of workmanship peculiar to the city of Moscow. These articles are very expensive, often costing $20 and $25 for even smaller samples. (Marked No. 12.)

4 dozen of photographs of the Imperial Family, and other distinguished Russian persons. (Marked No. 13.)

1 box of Russian tobacco. (Marked No. 14.)

1 "Sampvar." This article of Russian domestic life requires comment. It is of universal use, and though at first sight it appears more complicated and less available than our spirit kettle, yet, upon closer acquaintance, it is found to possess qualities which ours does not. It can be used *out doors*, when the wind blows—as, for example, upon the piazza of a country house—will burn a great while, and when the chimney is removed, any thing may be kept hot by being placed upon it. Charcoal, *already* ignited, or set burning after the coal is put under it, is the fuel, and the chimney may be removed to increase the draft. The shape is the ancient Muscovite form, unchanged for centuries. There are belonging to it:

1. Urn, itself.
2. Large cover to ditto.

3. Perforated top, (removable.)
4. Chimney.
5. Key to the spout.
6. Tray to stand upon.

(Marked No. 15.)

4 bottles of "Küml." This is also of Russian manufacture, is rarely seen in other parts of Europe, and is regarded as the most delicate *liqeur* in existence. This sent is the best quality made—*Riga* manufacture—and a high price should be demanded for it.

2 copies of *La Revue Amusante*, containing a description of General Clay's great ball, in honor of the anniversary of Washington's birthday.

From

HENRY BERGH,
Secretary of Legation to Russia.

BOOKS FOR THE ARMY.

At a meeting of officers of the 6th Corps, held on the evening of the 23d of February, Colonel T. G. Thomas was chosen chairman, and Adjutant L. W. Beers appointed secretary. The following resolutions were had:

Resolved, That, in the name of the officers and men of the 6th Corps, we accept the handsome and valuable gift of six hundred volumes of standard and miscellaneous works, tendered in such flattering and patriotic terms by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, through their gentlemanly agent, Mr. Smith.

Resolved, That the generous donors, in thus anticipating and removing an intellectual want, so keenly felt by the soldier during the many hours of idleness and inactivity and camp life, deserve, and we hereby tender them, our heartfelt thanks.

Resolved, That, learning that it is the intention of the Sanitary Commission shortly to make more donations of reading matter in other corps, we extend to them our best wishes for their future welfare and success in the good work, which has been the means of so much comfort to our corps.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Mr. Smith for the very kind and laborious manner in which he superintended the work of distributing the volumes in behalf of the Commission.

Resolved, That the secretary of this meeting communicate these resolutions to *The New York Daily Tribune* for publication.

On motion, these resolutions were unanimously adopted, after which the meeting adjourned.

L. W. BEERS,
Secretary of Meeting.
6th Army Corps, Army of Potomac, near Brandy Station, Va.

Dr. Geo. A. Blake, Inspector, writing from New Orleans, under date of March 5th, 1864, says our HOME has proved a perfect success. During the month of February, 15,525 meals were served, and 4,508 lodgings forwarded. At Brashear City, our Soldiers' Rest furnished about two thousand (2,000) meals.

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OF THE
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Apply in person or by letter, to
HENRY GREENFIELD, *Sec'y*,
35 CHAMBERS STREET, New York.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1*st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.*

2*d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.*

3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

THE MERCANTILE MARINE
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Assets over $1,400,000.

MARINE and Inland Transportation risks on Vessels, Freight and Merchandise insured on the most favorable terms.

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Parties effecting insurance at this office may participate in the scrip dividend of profits, or receive an equivalent cash discount, at their own option.

The risk of war covered at the lowest current rates.

ELLWOOD WALTER, Pres't.
CHAS. NEWCOMB, Vice-Pres't.
C. J. DESPARD, Secretary.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.
C. J. Stillé. " "
Ezra B. McCagg, Chicago, Ill.

OFFICERS:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., President.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President.
George T. Strong, Treasurer.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Associate Secretary.
J. H. Douglas, M.D., Associate Secretary.
F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Henry W. Bellows, D.D.
George T. Strong.
William H. Van Buren, M.D.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.
C. R. Agnew, M.D.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Soldier's Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C.W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Sup't.

AGENCY FOR PENSIONS.

William F. Bascom, Pension Agent, Washington, D. C

HOSPITAL CARS.

Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M. D., Surgeon in charge.
Between New York and Boston, via Springfield.
Between Louisville and Murfreesboro'—Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in charge.

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Cumberland River—New Dunleith.

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THAT EVERY

GOOD HOUSEKEEPER SHOULD USE

AND EVERY

GOOD GROCER SHOULD SELL,

Made from the best materials; always uniform in quality, and SIXTEEN OUNCES to the Pound.

Pyle's Dietetic Saleratus,

A pure and wholesome article, which has no superior for making Biscuit, Cake and Pastry light and rich. In the New England States, where the best articles are required, it takes the lead of all others.

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Put up solely for cooking purposes, and warranted to suit. Most cooks know the difficulty in getting good Cream Tartar, but they have only to ask for Pyle's and be suited.

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Full strength, pure, and suitable for Culinary or Medical use.

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Put up in Tin Cans and Paper, and warranted equal to any in use, at reduced prices, never fails to make good Biscuit, Cake, or Pastry, without Cream Tartar and Soda. Any one can use it with success. All the above articles are put up GOOD WEIGHT.

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TEA CADDIES of all sizes always on hand.

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ANNUAL STATEMENT

OF THE

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

FIRE AND LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY,

45 William Street, New York.

Capital and accumulations,	$7,832,171.06
Net profits added to Capital in 1863,	743,128.98
Premiums received in 1863,	
Fire,	$2,610,510.43
Life,	719,703.35
Losses paid in 1863,	
Fire,	$1,494,592.35
Life,	347,903.30
Total losses paid from 1836 to 1863,	
Fire,	$11,331,697.98
Life,	3,362,685.52
Dividend paid, 1863, free of income tax,	40 per cent.

ALL THE ABOVE SUMS ARE GOLD.

No portion either of the capital or of the income of the "Globe Insurance Company," now in course of amalgamation with the "Liverpool and London," is included in this statement.

The Stockholders are personally responsible for all engagements of the Company.

March 19th, 1864.

DIRECTORS IN NEW YORK.

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HENRY GRINNELL, Esq., Dep. Ch'n.
E. M. ARCHIBALD, H.B.M. Consul.
JOS. GAILLARD, JR., Esq.
ALEX. HAMILTON, JR., Esq.
E. F. SANDERSON, Esq.
Counsel, ALEX. HAMILTON, JR., Esq.
Resident Sec'y, ALFRED PELL, Esq.

OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

DIRECTORS.

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DANIEL W. LORD,
GEORGE MILN,
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THOS. LORD, Vice-President. **B. C. MORRIS, President.**

WM. M. WHITNEY 2d Vice-President and Secretary.

PARTICIPATION

FIRE INSURANCE.

NORTH AMERICAN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of the City of New York,

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - $500,000 00
ASSETS, - - - - - - - 604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$157,360 00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	364,385 00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603 11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000 00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,384 00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220 39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788 83
Other Property of Company	793 75
	$604,535 59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years.*

The Customers receive **Three-Fourths** of the Net Profits of the business each year, without incurring any liability whatever.

R. W. BLEECKER, Sec'y. **JAMES W. OTIS, Pres't.**

R. F. MASON, Superintendent of Agencies.

STEINWAY & SONS'

GOLD MEDAL,

Grand, Square and Upright

PIANOFORTES,

are now acknowledged the best instruments in America, as well as in Europe, having taken

TWENTY-SIX FIRST PREMIUMS, GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS,

at the Principal Fairs held in this country within the last seven years; and in addition thereto, they were awarded a

FIRST PRIZE MEDAL

AT THE

Great International Exhibition

IN LONDON, 1862,

FOR

Powerful, Clear, Brilliant and Sympathetic Tone,

WITH EXCELLENCE OF WORKMANSHIP AS SHOWN IN GRAND AND SQUARE

PIANOS.

There were 269 Pianos, from all parts of the world, entered for competition, and the special correspondent of the *Times* says:

"Messrs. STEINWAY'S endorsement by the Jurors is emphatic, and stronger, and more to the point, than that of any European maker.

"This greatest triumph of American Pianofortes in England has caused a sensation in musical circles throughout the continent, and as a result the Messrs. STEINWAY are in constant receipt of orders from Europe, thus inaugurating a new phase in the history of American Pianofortes, by creating in them an article of export."

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Imported Wines, Brandies, &c.,

OF THE PUREST QUALITY, FOR

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Such as are extensively used in the

UNITED STATES HOSPITALS

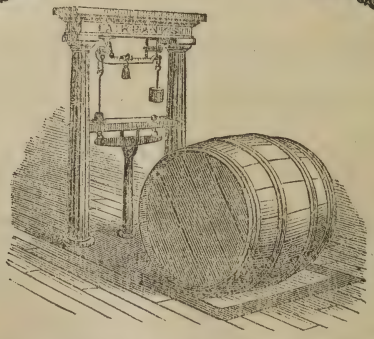
And by the SANITARY COMMISSION.

ALSO, AMERICAN WINES OF THE HIGHEST GRADES.

Sole Agent in New York and Washington for

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Brandies, etc., etc.

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Adapted to every branch of business.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE ORIGINAL INVENTORS,

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FAIRBANKS & CO., No. 246 Baltimore Street, Baltimore.

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DURYEA'S MAIZENA

RECEIVED

TWO PRIZE MEDALS





(FROM JURIES 3 AND 4)

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,

LONDON, 1862.

Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

"EXCEEDING EXCELLENT FOR FOOD."

MAIZENA,

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

MAIZENA,

At the FAIR of the NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, at Utica, N. Y., September, 1863, received both Diploma and Medal.

MAIZENA,

AT THE

Pennsylvania State Fair at Norristown,

Oct. 3, 1863, took Gold Medal.

"MAIZENA" has also taken the first premium at the American Institute, New York City; New Jersey State Fair at Trenton, and at other places—in every instance where it has been exhibited.

"MAIZENA" has never failed to receive the highest award when placed in competition with Corn Starch and all articles of like character, after a thorough Microscopical and Analytical Examination of disinterested judges. It therefore stands commended to the public as the best article of its kind in the world without any comments of the manufacturer.

MAIZENA,

For Puddings, Cakes, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c., without isinglass, with few or no eggs, at a cost astonishing the most economical. It is also excellent for thickening sweet sauces, gravies for fish and meat, soups, &c. For Ice Cream, nothing can compare with it. A little boiled in milk will produce rich cream for Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, &c.

Put up in one pound packages, under the trade mark "Maizena," with directions for use.

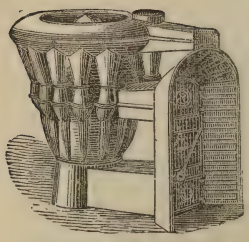
A most delicious article of food for children and invalids of all ages. For sale by Grocers and Druggists everywhere.

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WM. DURYEA, General Agent.

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TO SET IN BRICK, OR PORTABLE.



TO SET IN BRICK.

The most powerful HEATERS known for warming

DWELLINGS, CHURCHES,

Hospitals, Schools, Vessels, &c.

Send or call for a FULL DESCRIPTION, and an unparalleled mass of testimony from some of our first citizens.



PORTABLE.

SANFORD'S MAMMOTH

OR

GLOBE HEATERS,

Of great power and economy of fuel, for all places where great heat is wanted, as

Stores, Hotels, R. R. Depots, Vessels, &c.



These Heaters are used by the Hudson River and other RAILROADS, most of the *Ferries, Fire Engine Houses, &c.* Beware of imitations that are inferior.

Extensively used in Hospitals and Barracks.

GET SANFORD'S MAMMOTH.

THE COSMOPOLITE

PARLOR COAL STOVE,

With Radiator, Ventilator, and Gas Burning Attachment.

The Leading Stove for

PARLORS,

SITTING-ROOMS,



And all places where a SOFT, PLEASANT HEAT is desired. Fires kept all winter with an astonishingly small supply of coal.

THE

CHALLENGE AIR-TIGHT KITCHEN RANGES,

For Coal or Wood, set in fire-places without masonry, or out on feet; have the Largest Ovens of any in market; bake perfectly; never failing to brown at the bottom. Boil, Roast and Broil with great facility and dispatch, and ECONOMY OF FUEL. *A most desirable Range for Private Houses, Hotels, Hospitals, Barracks, &c.*

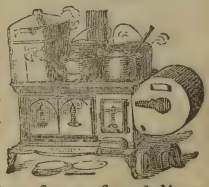


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SUMMER AND WINTER

PORTABLE RANGE.

A very popular Range, with Six Boiler Holes, one Large Oven that bakes perfectly, with an arrangement for Roasting, or Heating Irons, at the end.



☞ *A perfect apparatus for a few dollars, and well suited for families, restaurants, barracks, &c.*

Also, a great variety of COOKING AND HEATING APPARATUS, suited to every want. Also, the UNION STOVE POLISH. Get description of above, with references, from

SANFORD, TRUSLOW & CO.,

239 and 241 Water St., New York.

THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, APRIL 15, 1864. No. 12.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

THE SANITARY MOVEMENT IN EUROPEAN ARMIES.

We have already more than once endeavored to impress upon our readers, that the Sanitary Commission has not been called for by the existence of any peculiar defects in the Medical Department of our Army. In so far as the Medical Department fails to meet all the demands upon it, it fails in common with that of every other large Army in the world, and with more and better excuses for failing than those of other armies usually have, owing to the nature of the country, and the immensity of the distances on the theatre of our military operations.

In the minds of large numbers of well meaning people, the strongest objection to the Commisson lies in its novelty. They have never heard of any thing of the kind in any other war, and conclude that it is either not called for in this war, or that our medical service is grossly and singularly inefficient. We wish now to take this opportunity of repeating what we said on this same subject in No. 8, of the BULLETIN, that the real reason for the attempt, which we are now making, to afford voluntary aid to the sick and wounded soldiers, is not by any means the fact that our sick and wounded are worse off than those of other armies; but the fact that the Christian public either in this or any other country, will not now allow men to suffer and perish, as in all previous wars they have suffered and perished, without making an effort to relieve them.

The number of sick and wounded who have ever been properly taken care of, in any war, by the regular medical organization, has always been a shockingly small propor-

tion of the whole, not from want of will, but for want of means. This was the case previous to the French Revolution, when movements were slow, sieges numerous, and winter quarters the rule. Since the introduction of Napoleon's strategy, with its rapid marches, frequent bivouacking, winter campaigns, swift concentration of forces, and sanguinary engagements, the disproportion between the capacity of the Medical Staff and the demands on it, has, in spite of the prodigious advance made in Sanitary science in the last fifty years, remained undiminished.

The public, however, will not allow soldiers to perish before their eyes as they did fifty years ago; first, because we are all more sensible to suffering than our fathers were; and, secondly, because our means of relieving it are greater. The telegraph, and railroad, and steamboat, have placed the soldier in the field, for the first time, within the reach of his friends at home, and therefore his friends, for the first time, are making an organized effort to reach him, and succor him; and they make a stronger and more vigorous effort, for exactly the same reason that we have more hospitals, more charitable institutions, better prisons, than we ever had before; or, in other words, because the world is more easily moved by the spectacle of human misery than it has ever been.

We receive from Europe, by nearly every mail, proofs of the correctness of this theory of the origin of our Sanitary Commission. The same sacred impulse which has called it into existence, is, we are glad to say, stirring the hearts of all those in other countries, who find themselves brought face to face with the horrors of the battle-field. A Sanitary Association has just been formed in Prussia; and we beg to remind our readers, that Prussia is a country in which the best modes of fitting armies for active service, has for a century and a half engaged, what may be fairly called, an inordinate share of the attention of the Government. The following explains the nature and objects of the Association; the *italics* are ours:

BERLIN SANITARY ASSOCIATION.

In all wars of modern times it has been clearly proven that the best organization of the Medical Department fails to do all that is necessary for sick and wounded, unless supplemented by voluntary charity and private offerings. This well-established axiom brought together a number of experienced persons from different parts of Europe, who met mainly with the authority of their respective Governments, in Geneva, last fall, to advise together, and to ascertain the best way of supplying help and of organizing to do good. Acting on their suggestions, the undersigned have associated under the patronage of the King and Queen of Prussia, in order to put in practice the rules adopted at Geneva, and to give the greatest possible extent to that patriotic voluntary activity, which in other days, and most of all in our own, is excited by the wants of our national defenders, by the largest field of labor, by general participation in it, by a well-organized scheme, by a unity of purpose, to reach the necessities of the immediate present, and to establish a permanent charity for all future contingencies.

In appealing to all friends and lovers of our country and its cause, we think it only necessary to give the subjoined sketch of our plan:

Dr. Largenbeck, *Med. Dir. 4th Corps.*
Prof. Magnus.
Mendelssohn, *Councillor.*
Dr. Pelldram, *Chaplain.*
Prince Radzivill.
Otto, Count Stolberg Wernigernde.
Thielen, *Chaplain.*
Wagner, *Bookseller.*
Dr. Wendt, *Chief City Physician.*
Henry the 13th, Prince Reuss.
Abetans, *Privy Councillor.*
Count Arnim Brytzenburg.
Dr. Bruggeman, *High Privy Councillor.*
V. Derenthall, *Lieutenant-General.*
Baron von Haber.
Hedemans, *Mayor.*
Dr. Hoffman, *General Superintendent.*
Dr. Housselle, *Chief Medical Director.*

APPEAL.

The Crimean War and the Italian Campaigns prove that in the present system of carrying on War, even well-organised Army Medical Departments cannot meet the wants of sick and wounded in the field. In October there met, at Geneva, a number of persons who had practical experience, and who represented Baden, Bavaria, England, France, Holland, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Saxony, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Wurtemberg, and other governments, to confer and ascertain and determine "How best to help the medical staff of every army to provide for their sanitary duties, and to give them the means of supplying their wants." This conference adopted the following general regulations:

1st. In every state there should be a

commission, prepared to anticipate and supply the inevitable wants of its army.

2d. Each commission should organize its own local subdivisions.

3d. Every such division should be duly established by (and with the consent of) the local authorities.

4th. In time of peace, the members prepare and collect material for use in war, and learn thoroughly the duty of nurses.

5th. In time of war, each commission helps freely its own soldiers with a supply of nurses, by preparing quarters for sick and wounded, and by getting help from their associates in neutral states.

6th. Nurses and help of all kinds to be furnished at the call of the regular medical authorities, and to be directed by them.

7th. Voluntary nurses to be fully supplied by the locality whence they are sent, and to draw all articles from one source.

8th. The universal insignia to be a white band with red cross.

9th. The commissions and local committees to unite in an International Congress for discussion, improvement and advice.

10th. For the present the Geneva Commission to be the common channel for all correspondence between different countries.

The following are its officers: General Dufour, Gustav Moynier, Dr. Mannoir, Dr. Appia, Henry Dunan.

The Conference also make public the following requests:

A. That the Government, in every case, give to Sanitary Commissions authority, sanction, and protection.

B. That, in time of war, the privilege of neutrality be extended to official sanitary individuals, voluntary nurses, people who receive the wounded in their own houses, and the wounded themselves.

C. That common insignia of persons doing sanitary duty, and a common flag for hospitals, be adopted in all armies. *Although Prussia is universally acknowledged to be in the very furthest advance on all matters relating to military hospitals, and the care of sick and wounded soldiers, yet there is still room for a useful activity and a patriotic organization.* The undersigned are therefore agreed to form associations for the care of sick and wounded soldiers in the field. The King and Queen have promised help and assistance.

1st. *The task of the associations is to supply nursing and care to the hospitals now organized, and to encourage the production of all kinds of articles that may be useful or necessary.*

2d. The Central Bureau is established in Berlin.

3d. Provincial and Local Bureaus shall be begun in all parts of Germany.

4th. The duties of the Association are to provide for active work.

(1.) In time of peace:
- *a. To collect money.*
- *b. To prepare supplies.*
- c. To train nurses.
- *d.* To connect all organized charitable associations, clerical or lay, to the Sanitary Association.

(2.) In time of war:
- *a.* To establish hospitals in the field.
- *b.* To supply nurses.
- *c.* To have trained persons to give help on the field.
- *d. To forward all the articles needed for the sick and wounded.*

5th. The Central Bureau shall consist of twenty-five active members.

6th. The duties of the Central Bureau shall be—

To organize Provincial and Local Bureaus.

To be intermediary between these subordinate associations and the official authorities, by pointing out to the former the services required of them, and by supplying the latter with the means furnished for their use.

To establish hospitals, and to supervise those already established.

To make collections for them through the local sub-divisions.

To maintain an intimate correspondence with all branch and international associations, and to keep the public, as well as the members of the Commission, thoroughly acquainted with all of its workings and results, by frequent reports.

7th. The Central Bureau in Berlin shall be sub-divided into as many bureaus as there may be special duties.

8th. Admission shall be free to all persons, and members of the Association shall be—

a. All who take an active personal share in its operations.

b. All who subscribe yearly, at least 10 silbergroscher—$1.00.

Patrons of the Association are those whose gifts are frequent and large.

The provincial and local associations shall make their own rules.

9th. The Central Bureau shall correspond with other national associations, and with the International Committee of Geneva.

10th. The Association affirms the resolutions adopted at Geneva, and announces its purpose to put them in practice as soon and as far as may be possible. The patriotism of the Prussian nation is appealed to, not only on the ground of the sacrifices and duties of the present hour, not only for the sake of diminishing the sickness and suffering of our fellow-citizens in the field, the victims as well as the heroes of the existing war, but on the high authority of those practiced and experienced men of all na-

tions, who have joined unanimously in declaring the pressing necessity and the large usefulness of a Sanitary Association.

(Signed,)

THE COMMITTEE.

BERLIN, *February* 17, 1864.

—

The Prussian "Bureau of Military Economy" publishes the following notice, by order of the Minister of War—(Feb 16)

BERLIN, *Feb.* 16, '64.

The gifts from private persons and associations, for the benefit of the wounded Prussian soldiers, are supplied to an extent, and with a steadiness, that renew the largest pledges of the patriotic sympathy of the whole nation, and its warm love for the army. Most of these gifts consist of articles that are very useful for the sick, and particularly for the wounded; but not unfrequently they show that the generous giver is misled, by the exaggeration of newspapers, to believe that the valiant defenders of the country suffer from extreme want, and, even in the hospitals, are without the commonest necessities. This makes it necessary to declare publicly, especially to soothe the many families whose anxieties are kept alive to the sufferings of their sons and brothers, in an active winter campaign, that there never has been any real, continuous want; although, owing to the rapid movement of the different columns of troops, there has been an occasional deficiency of certain articles; and in spite of the largest and most careful anticipation of all kinds of supplies, it is not possible to avoid the accidental, and therefore bearable, deprivation of some things. There never has been any unreasonable delay in the care of the sick and wounded, or any want of preparation for them in the field. In the Prussian army, there are always four light field hospitals for 200 men each, which follow the troops into action, even, and three hospitals for 600 men each, established a little in the rear. At *Kiel* there is an hospital for 1,000 men, and all of the hospitals in Prussia are ready to receive the patients sent here. For all of these hospitals, before the war began, there was a full supply of bedsteads, hospital vessels, food of all kinds that could be carried, medicines, bandages, lint, &c. The necessary additions of lint and bandages have been forwarded from Berlin on every train, and there is always on hand a reserve of 50 *cwts.* of lint alone.

This announcement will assuage the fear of any want of a proper preparation for the wounded, and may serve to point out to all patriotic persons, who put their sympathy for the Prussian soldiers into practice, that their labors may be directed to a supply of those articles not usually supplied, or absolutely necessary, but none the less grateful to the sick and suffering. There is, however, no limit prescribed to the army surgeons; they are authorized to obtain, at the expense of the Government, any articles of food or comfort they may want. But in the country where an army is operating, it is not easy to lay hands on anything, and what can be had is not always to be preferred. Hence, supplies of soup, wine, preserved and fresh fruits, cigars, and other luxuries, are always useful and welcome. There are, also, articles for comfort, such as mattresses and pillows, flannels, shirts, and under clothing of all kinds, which cannot be too abundant. The War Department will gladly receive helps in the shape of gifts as these, and will be responsible for their careful distribution, besides publicly acknowledging, as usual, the name of every giver.

The noble generosity of the nation has also been exhibited, in handsome supplies of money, to be used in supporting wounded men discharged from hospitals, and the families of those who have fallen.

The Government has made full provision for invalided soldiers, and for the children of its soldiers, yet this field is open to the help of private generosity; all moneys for this purpose will be gladly received, and properly disposed of.

With patriotic feeling, there have been numerous offers of help in the field, from both clergy and laity, as nurses; and so many volunteers for this purpose, are already with the army, that it is requested that all who desire to go, or to send fit and proper persons for this work, will report to the War Department, in order to be assigned to places where their services are really required.

War Office,

Department of Military Economy,

HENRIG KNEVIES.

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The *Dresden News*, however, prints the following extract from the letter of a regimental surgeon. It serves as a commentary on the above.

RENDSBURG, *Feb.* 6.—Although we Saxons have not been in action yet, and are not likely to be, I have worked as hard as if I was under the heaviest fire. At 11 P. M. of the 3rd, there arrived the first ambulance train of wounded Austrians and Prussians, from the battle-field; and, just think of it, there were no bandages, no beds, no covering, no hospital accommodations—not even an empty house—and, worst of all, not even an Austrian surgeon. What could we three Saxon surgeons do, with 230 severely wounded men, many of

whom could not speak a word of German, and not another doctor could be found in the place. We did all that was possible, and by 10 o'clock on the morning of the 4th, every patient was cared for. The Danish balls which we cut out, are twice as heavy and as big as the Austrian. The wounds were often fearful, frequently in the upper part of the body, because their weight gives the balls a larger arc, and they strike the men in the breast and lodge under the shoulders. In spite of the want of all preparation, we soon got help, and to-day every one of the 423 wounded men here has a bed, with a straw mattress, because we have set all our soldiers at work, and the women fetch in lint, old linen, bandages, and, what was most of all wanted, food of all kinds, in plenty. Last night there were eight deaths. All our Saxon surgeons off duty have their hands full at the hospitals.

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The total receipts up to the 31st January, for the benefit of the Schleswig Holstein sufferers, is put at 283,490 fl.—$150,000.

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The "Diakonissen haus (Society of Deaconesses) Bethanien," of Berlin, has published the following call:

The war has begun. When it will end, and how long it will last, God only knows. We are ready to care for the sick and wounded. The Order of St. John has prepared a hospital for fifty beds at Altona, and has assigned the charge of it to us. We have accepted the work, but our power is already exhausted; and we appeal to all Prussian, to all German women and widows, who are free from family cares, to share our sacred calling, and pray for their help. All whose hearts respond to this appeal, and who can join us, will report to me. It is desirable that every application, besides a brief statement of the personal relations of each individual, be accompanied by a copy of the certificate of baptism, the consent of parents, a testimony of good moral conduct, signed by the pastor, and a physician's certificate.

(Signed,)

ANNA, COUNTESS STOLBERG,
Superintendent.

BERLIN, BETHANY, *Feb.* 5.

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The Count and Countess Stolberg reached Altona, on the day of the 1st February, accompanied by the Superintendent of the Diaconate, Bethany, from Berlin, and two deaconesses, to take part in the care of the hospital established at that place, by the Order of St. John.

THINGS TO BE DONE.

Complaints are frequently made by the inspectors and relief agents of the Commission, that great loss occurs in the transportation of sanitary stores from BAD PACKING.

Preserved fruits are often so badly put up in bottles or jars, that the corks come out, and the contents are spoiled or spilled.

It is *useless* to pack sanitary stores in *poor barrels*, or thin, *badly coopered boxes.* If you expect your contributions of food to reach the needy sufferers, over the hard roads of military transportation, you must pack in *strong barrels, well strapped* and *nailed, or in boxes secured by careful nailing,* and either hickory, raw hide, or strap iron straps.

Dried fruits, for many reasons, are preferable to those put up in the moist state with sugar syrup; still the latter, when carefully packed, are of great value.

WILL NOT EVERY HOUSEWIFE IN THE COUNTRY PREPARE, AT LEAST, TWO BUSHELS OF DRIED APPLES, PLUMS, OR PEACHES, THIS YEAR, AND SEND THEM TO THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, THROUGH THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIETY, OR BRANCH? BY SO DOING, HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF BRAVE MEN MAY BE SAVED FROM WASTING SCURVY AND PERMANENT DISABILITY.

THE CALL FROM THE HIGHEST MILITARY AND MEDICAL AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD IS CONSTANT AND LOUD FOR *onions, pickles,* and *potatoes.* CANNOT EVERY LOYAL FARMER put in half an acre of ONIONS and POTATOES, THE BEST PREVENTIVES OF, OR REMEDIES FOR SCURVY, THAT TERRIBLE ENEMY OF ARMIES?

In this way a great blessing will be conferred upon the National Army, and the health and lives of the brave men derive due protection through the intelligent solicitude of the homes of the land.

LETTERS IN OUR DRAWER.

Dr. Steiner, our Chief Inspector in the Armies of Eastern Virginia and Maryland, has sent in his report for the past three months; but as they have been unusually quiet months, little of special interest has occurred. The Relief Corps with the Army of Virginia consists, at present, of one

superintendent, one assistant superintendent, five relief agents, a storekeeper and assistant. Dr. Steiner says:

There has been but one active engagement in the Army of the Potomac since the last report, which is known technically as the battle of Morton's Ford. This engagement arose during a reconnoisance made by the Second Corps. It resulted in some two hundred wounded men being thrown into the hospitals of this corps. Our agents report that they were on hand, and furnished such warm under-clothing as was needed by the men, as also the requisite amount of stimulants and farinaceous food. It was fortunate that the stores, that a wise forethought of the superintendent had collected at Brandy Station, were sufficient to meet the demands of the occasion. Dr. Isaac Fairchild, one of the inspectors, was on the ground, and afforded the medical officers such aid as they needed in attending to the wounded.

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The work of distribution has been carried on from three foci—the main storehouse at Brandy Station, (headquarters of Field Relief Corps,) the storehouse at Culpepper Court House, and at Catlett's Station. The stores have all been *issued on receipted requisitions from medical officers, or their accredited representatives, except where individual cases, requiring assistance, came directly under the agent's observation.* Reports have been rendered weekly of the work of each officer of the corps, and whenever these contained matters of public interest, extracts have been made, and forwarded for insertion in the BULLETIN. That these extracts have been comparatively few in number, can be accounted for simply from the fact, that there is but little of incident in the routine of winter-life in camp. Still, sufficient have been furnished, I trust, to show that the corps is fully alive to the work entrusted to it, and that this work has been cheerfully undertaken and unweariedly performed.

In consequence of the necessity of a resting and feeding place for soldiers and officers, arriving in a weak and prostrate condition at Brandy Station, an arrangement was made at Brandy Station for a species of field lodge, in connection with our headquarters. This has enabled the agents to give a comfortable bed and suitable food to a large number, who would otherwise have suffered for the want of such attentions, at a merely nominal expense.

* * * * *

As regards our work in Major General Kelly's command, heretofore we have depended upon occasional visits of inspectors to ascertain wants, which have then been supplied by issues from Washington. I am now about perfecting arrangements for the location of a permanent agent in Harper's Ferry, who shall have this work under his eye. The difficulty of securing agents has been so great, that I have preferred to train them for the purpose, in the Field Relief Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

During the stay of Mr. E. B. Fairchild, as special examiner in vital statistics, at Point Lookout, he was also delegated as relief agent. He issued such stores as were needed for the hospital, and occasionally supplied some of the more urgent needs of the prisoners in the immense prisoners' camp, established there. Among other articles forwarded, I may mention two hundred and twenty-five pounds of sulphur, with a view of stopping the ravages of the itch, which was largely prevalent there at one time.

During the past two months, in addition to the numerous duties resting upon me in conducting the machinery of this department, I have been enabled to make visits of inspection to the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Virginia, and to satisfy myself, by personal examination, of the practical execution of the plans that had been matured by me at the headquarters of the department.

The demand for supplies from the West still continues unabated. The negroes and contrabands from the enemy's lines are bringing the small pox with them as they flock in, and are filling our hospitals, and infecting our own men. Our agent at Memphis, Mr. Carpenter, reports to Dr. Newberry, (March 11)—

I have the honor to report the number of sick in General Hospitals, not quite 2,500. The prevailing diseases, pneumonia and small pox, very much on the increase.

The small pox increasing fearfully among the refugees and contrabands. I wish attention might be called forcibly to the dangerous character of the vaccine virus issued to Surgeons.

A great number of the troops here are suffering seriously from the effects of inoculation.

We received a very seasonable supply of sanitary stores yesterday from Cairo. We received no whisky or wines, which we are in need of, for Regimental Hospitals. We are entirely out of bedding, also; it is needed badly; wool under-clothing, socks and drawers, cotton shirts, we have a supply of for the present; towels and handkerchiefs, much needed. I have succeeded in making arrangements with Capt. Tigh, A. Q. M., by which the effects and mementoes of deceased soldiers in General Hospitals, for which he is not obliged to account, may be turned over to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, registered and preserved, until they can be returned to their friends. Under the present system, I have found it impossible to find or secure any thing, of that description, after the effects have once gone into the hands of the Quarter-Master.

I have also been trying to have the authorities open a mill, to grind corn, but have not succeeded in any thing yet.

I don't know but it may be best for the U. S. Sanitary Commission to do something about it, if we can succeed in no other way.

It seems indispensable to the colored troops and refugees, to have corn meal, and in hot weather, it will be very apt to sour, in bringing it from the North. Government would make a decided saving in using corn, if they would see it so, and take the trouble to provide it.

Dr. Lewis Cox, arrived here from Philadelphia, February 27th, as Medical Inspector of the Valley of the Mississippi.

I have just received (since I commenced this letter,) a requisition from Helena, for Sanitary supplies. The amount of supplies, of all the leading articles, with which we are furnished at this point, is entirely inadequate for the supply

of all that are dependent upon this post—Helena, Goodrich Landing, Fort Pillow, and the gun-boat supplies.

Helena reports to-day, 238 sick in hospitals.

* * * * * *

The Commission has followed up the expedition to Texas, and established agencies and stores at the leading points occupied by our troops. Mr. Mitchell, one of the Relief Agents there, writes, (January 20) from Decron's Point—

On the 15th instant, through Dr. White's courtesy, I secured a hospital tent for our stores, and an office. The substantial casks of cabbage, in currie and vinegar, the goodly row of potato barrels, and the flag of the Commission, more conspicuous, though not less useful in its way, fully attest that even on this "ultima thule," the volunteer soldier shall not be forgotten, or neglected by those who owe to him their present security and prosperity, and for whose present and future welfare, he has left a home and all its comforts, as dear to him as theirs. Even before the tent poles were well in the ground, there were several Surgeons at hand asking for those ordinary necessities, not to be obtained elsewhere at present.

* * * * * *

As I have already mentioned to you, symptoms of scurvy are said to exist among the men, and many of the Surgeons are desirous of obtaining prepared lemonade, as a preventive. If you have any in New Orleans, it cannot be made of more use elsewhere in the Department than here.

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And he adds, writing from Indianola, (February 11)---

The cabbage in currie is tasted with a smack of the lips, a grunt of satisfaction; then a more modest expression of the taste's appreciation of the article follows.

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The monographs of the Commission are highly prized here by the Surgeons, and are in great demand. I believe that I have already requested that complete sets be sent here. I would like to have at least thirty. The BULLETINS are also received here with pleasure, by both officers and men—an allowance of 100 per number can be well distributed. Please to send as large a supply of other reading as you can spare, for this command; it is impossible to obtain any thing but "trash" here, from any other source.

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The following furnishes a fresh illustration of the folly and absurdity of supposing that the condition of Government storehouses, in the cities of the North, has any necessary bearing on the condition of the troops at distant points in the field. The great difficulty with which the Government has to contend is not the accumulation of stores, but their distribution at the places where they are most needed. It is certainly strange that, at this stage in the war, attention should have to be so often drawn to this point.

Mr. Edgerly, one of our relief agents, writes from Brownsville, Texas, (January 30:)

* * * * *

General Herron stated that his men in hospital were greatly suffering for want of sanitary stores, and that he had already written to you, requesting a donation of supplies from the stores of the Commission. He further stated, that any stores that the Commission could spare for the benefit of the sick in his command, would be most thankfully received; and that he should be most happy to give us every facility in his power for carrying out the plans and objects of the Commission. He has already given orders to have a good storehouse immediately fitted up for the use of the Commission at this point.

* * * * *

The Post Hospital is in one of the best buildings in town. The wards look clean and tidy, but are entirely destitute of pillows, sheets, and hospital clothing; while the patients are supplied only with such diet as can be prepared from army rations, which consist mostly of bread, beef, flour, rice, and coffee. The prevailing diseases are said to be fever, diarrhea, and small-pox, of the latter of which there are some thirty cases.

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Mr. Furness writes to Dr. Blake, Chief Inspector at New Orleans, February 26.

NEW ORLEANS, *February* 26, 1864.

In accordance with your instructions, I left New Orleans on the 6th February, on board the "Laurel Hill," with 117 sick and furloughed soldiers, having spent the previous five days in fixing up berths, dining tables, storeroom, &c., to the satisfaction of Dr. Stipp, Medical Inspector, department of the Gulf, who went with us as far as Baton Rouge.

* * * * * *

We arrived at Baton Rouge early on Sunday morning, when we took on board twenty men, making a total of 137: of course, they could not all be accommodated in staterooms, as there were but twenty-eight available, twenty of which had two berths each, and eight would accommodate three men each. I suggested a plan to Dr. Stipp, by which we could gain eighty-eight additional berths; he told me to go ahead and fix up the boat as I thought best. A row of berths was built in the centre of the saloon, eleven feet in length, two in width, and four in height. As the staterooms are accessible from the saloon and from the deck, it was thought advisable to run the dining table the whole length of the boat, fastening it to the framework of the staterooms, thus closing all the doors from the saloon into the state-rooms, on one side of the boat. A good bed, clean bedding, and a seat at the table was provided for every man.

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We still continue to receive very gratifying acknowledgments of the value of our labors, from the surgeons in the field.

HOSPITAL, 3D DIVISION, 2D A. C.
March 12th, 1864.

DR. GORDON WINSLOW:

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the many obligations I am under, for benefits rendered this hospital by the U. S. S. Commission, through their energetic and obliging representative, Mr. Holbrook. Through this agency, this hospital has been abundantly supplied with sheets, blankets, quilts, pillows, underclothing, of all kinds; milk, farina, corn starch, jellies, reading matter, and other materials, which were obtainable from no other source. They have also been of great service, in taking charge of disabled and discharged soldiers, who were not able to care for themselves, on their way home.

I am, also, under personal obligations to their several agents, for the kind and courteous manner in which these services have been rendered, and sincerely hope they may prosper in the good work in which they are engaged.

I have the honor to be
Your most obedient servant,
FRED'K A. DUDLEY,
14th C. V., in charge of Hospital.

HEADQUARTERS, 2D DIV. 2D CORPS HOSPITAL,
March 12th, 1864.

DR. WINSLOW:

It is with great pleasure that I improve the present opportunity, to acknowledge the efficiency of, and benefits arising from your philanthropic and benevolent body, the Sanitary Commission. It is impossible to enumerate the many, very many, good results arising from its energetic endeavors to benefit the sick and wounded, who are under my charge.

We have received, through your agent, Mr. Holbrook, who, I am glad to say, is a young man every way worthy of, and competent to fill, the responsible position which he occupies, a bountiful supply of sheets, blankets, pillow-cases, underclothing, and *many other* necessaries, and luxuries, which have enabled us to make the sick and wounded comfortable and contented, much more than is generally the case in a field hospital.

I feel grateful for the uniform kindness shown, not only to the suffering, but to us all who are concerned in their restoration to health. I must, also, acknowledge the favors shown to our men, going to and from their homes.

That you may be blessed in your labors of love, and that the medical staff of the army may never be deprived of so powerful an auxilliary for good, is the wish of

Yours truly,
JOHN AIKIN,
Surgeon 71st Pa. Vol., and in charge of hospital.

Mrs. Stephen Barker, who is acting as Hospital Visitor at Washington, furnishes an interesting report of her labors during the past month:

During the month of February, my visits have continued in the three hospitals for the Invalid Corps, (Martindale, Cliffburn and Sheeburn,) the stone hospital, (for deserters,) the post hospitals, for the Massachusetts 1st Heavy Artillery, at Forts De Kalb and Albany, and for the New York 2nd Heavy Artillery, at Fort Corcoran.

Within the last week I have been introduced to two new hospitals; one at Camp Barry, (for artillery instruction) the other at Fort Sumner, garrisoned by the Maine 1st Heavy Artillery.

In most of these visits I have directed my attention principally to cultivating an acquaintance with hospital stewards, wardmasters, nurses, cooks, and attendants, in order to ascertain their fitness for their responsible places.

There is so much opportunity for dishonesty and neglect in these departments, which may escape the notice of even a conscientious surgeon, that it is not safe to infer from his integrity, a similar fidelity in his employes.

I have known a pious class-leading Methodist wardmaster, to hide as much stewed fruit as he distributed for supper, in order to regale himself and the whole kitchen corps, at luncheon the next day.

Sometimes the patients fare even worse, by getting not even a share of the luxuries intended for them. Whenever there is reason to suspect such a state of things I have found it best to ask special permission from the surgeon, to distribute a certain delicacy, then to *tell the patients* what they are to receive, and when I go the next time, to ask how they enjoyed it. If they never had it, they are very ready to tell me, and I can then find out the reason, by general questions, which imply no particular suspicions, and which wound nobody's pride. When a wardmaster or steward discovers that he is looked after, he is sure to be very careful. So, without any disturbance in our friendly relations, a power is exerted, whereby the rights of patients are protected, and the Hospital Corps become responsible for the maintenance of their own reputation and dignity. In all the hospitals I have visited, the pleasantest relations have been established between the attendants and myself, and everywhere I hear most gratifying acknowledgements of the benefits received from the Sanitary Commission. I have found the employes in all these hospitals, as I think, conscientious and reliable. The only hospital about which I have had some doubts, has now come under a new surgeon, and I will make no comment until I have further opportunity to study its management.

On my daily rounds, I have carried a variety of articles in my wagon, which have been eagerly welcomed, especially fresh cranberries, canned fruit and tomatoes, catsup, &c.

The thread bags (containing the letters) the brushes, combs, cologne and national songs, together with an admirable selection of books and magazines, lately received from Massachusetts, have given more pleasure than one would imagine, who did not witness the effect of their introduction into a ward.

Among the amusements connected with the hospital labor of this month, has been the writing of a few stories for the "Drum Beat" at the request, and *solely* for the gratification of our own distinguished Secretary.

Besides these, I have spent several hours in the study of anatomy, as illustrated by some government drawers, to which my attention was mournfully called by a conscientious wardmaster, who pronounced them unfit for use, though nearly new, owing to their entire dismemberment. Really I think even Professor Agassiz would have been puzzled to decide at a glance for what race of animals they were intended. But by additions

and subtractions according to accepted standards, we, the ladies of the house, shall redeem the condemned garments, and "return them to their regiments."

WORK OF RELIEF IN THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

So far as known, all wants of sick or wounded soldiers in this Department, not provided for by the ordinary Government Agencies, have been met by the Commission.

The amount of supplies distributed in Washington and vicinity, including the Army of the Potomac, has been less than in some previous months—the number of inmates of General Hospitals being at present small.

At Newbern, early in the month, at the time of the advance of the Rebels upon the town, and the engagement which followed, Dr. Page, Inspector of the Sanitary Commission, exhibited to advantage the system, efficiency and wise provision made by the Commission, although there was but little call for only battle-field service. A large amount of most timely aid was rendered to the regiments, whose supplies had been destroyed, and many stores judiciously distributed.

At Beaufort, S. C., the good work has continued, as has already been shown by the published reports of Dr. Marsh. Our agents were present, with supplies, at the battles in Florida—Dr. Marsh having loaded a brig of 350 tons, with Sanitary supplies, which accompanied the expedition to the Florida coast. The supplies furnished by the Commission, after the battle near Olustee, were, for a time, almost the only stores for the relief of the wounded there. The public have ere this seen the order of Gen. Seymour, acknowledging the value of the services of the Commission.

At New Orleans, the General Relief work has gone on satisfactorily. Mr. Abbott, recently returned from New Orleans, gives very gratifying accounts of the energy and faithfulness of our agents there, and of the acknowledged good which the Commission is doing in that Department in General relief work.

The General Relief work in the Army of the Potomac, has been faithfully and acceptably performed—under the immediate direction of Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector of the Commission in that Army.

The store houses in Washington are accumulating supplies in anticipation of large and sudden demands upon them in the spring—supplies in quantity are being shipped to the Relief Stations on the coast.

At New Orleans, the "Home" has increased facilities, and increased demands upon it. Mr. NUTE, the former Superintendent, has returned to his regiment; and Mr. WEEVER, sent from the Washington office, is now Superintendent.

The office for pensions, back pay and bounties, at New Orleans, has been opened under the charge of Mr. SEATON—an efficient man from the Pension Office in Washington. Mr. SEATON reports that there were 150 cases waiting his arrival.

Arrangements for a new Lodge, for Special Relief Service, have been made at Portsmouth, Va. A large and conveniently located building has been assigned to the Commission at Portsmouth, by the military authorities, and all desired facilities secured to our agents there. It is likely to be a post of importance in the way of rendering relief.

A distinct Board of Special Relief has been found necessary at the office in Washington; and a person has accordingly been appointed, whose entire time is devoted to attending to the claims which come from the Navy—including the claims for "prize money." This is in accordance with a desire expressed at the Fourth Auditor's office, where these claims are presented.

Of the Hospital Directory, with its constantly enlarging beneficence, you have a report from Mr. BOWNE.

The Fresh Hospital Supply Agency continues rendering good service. According to the instructions of the Board a letter was sent to each Surgeon in charge of a General Hospital—thus supplied by the Commission—asking his opinion of the value of this agency. Most of the hospitals have replied, and the answers indicate, in general, satisfaction and appreciation of the service rendered. Some modifications may, however, be desirable.

There has been no oportunity during the past month for rendering aid to the Richmond prisoners through the Commission.

As soon as the exchanges are recommenced, the flag-of-truce boats will be supplied by our agents.

During the month there have been no changes of importance in the working corps —excepting the addition of three agents in the Special Relief work before referred to. Mr. Bascom, the faithful Pension Agent of the Commission, has resigned his place—his business at home demanding his presence there. Through the kindness and interest of the "Commissioner of Pensions," Mr. Barrett, another man of large experience and much ability, Mr. Barry, from the Pension Office, has been appointed in Mr. Bascom's place. From him back pay and bounties will be collected, as well as pensions, at Lodge No. 4, Washington.—*Mr. Knapp's Report.*

HOSPITALS IN THE WEST.

The hospital room in Louisville and vicinity has remained about the same for many months, but there have been a great many changes in the buildings used. The number of patients for some time has not been greatly different, for the beds made vacant by transfers to other hospitals, and deaths, are filled by the ceaseless tide of sick from the gradual accumulation in the hospitals at the front. At present there are about two thousand patients here, leaving some thirteen hundred vacant beds; four hundred of these, however, are at the Jefferson General Hospital, which is not yet complete in its arrangements.

The names of the hospitals, as they are now arranged, are—Clay, (formerly Nos. 1 and 4,) having 350 beds; Crittenden, (formerly Nos. 3 and 18, and Officers' Hospital,) having 280 beds; Brown Hospital, (formerly No. 7,) having 700 beds; Jefferson, at Jeffersonville, having beds at present for 700 patients; No. 16, at Jeffersonville, with beds for 87; at New Albany, General Hospitals, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8, and 11, with capacity for 840; and the Eruptive Hospital, (formerly Nos. 5, 15, 19, and 20,) having 250 beds.

I have been thus explicit in recording these changes, as the information may be of some importance to those who have now, or may hereafter have, friends in these hospitals. Other changes will probably occur within a short time, as soon as the large hospital at Jeffersonville is ready for patients to its full capacity.

Taylor General Hospital was in successful operation, till about two weeks ago, when the patients were transferred to Jefferson Hospital. This hospital had about six hundred beds, was pleasantly situated, and was a grand improvement from the "up stairs and down" of many of the hospitals in the city; and, besides this, it had ample grounds within and around it. When these buildings were erected, as was supposed for barracks, all who had been through the houses used for the purpose in the city, and sympathized with the convalescents, rejoiced at the thought of their change, crowded as they were into their three-story double bedsteads, some of which ought to have been condemned long ago, even as a place for so many prisoners. But the same ill-ventilated, dark rooms have been used to the present time for barracks. There is, however, the hope now, these buildings having been given up for hospital purposes, that the poor fellows on Main Street, who have broken out the windows, to get into their Calcutta-holes fresh air, will be able to walk under the open sky without a pass, and sleep in a well-ventilated building.

Of the hospitals that are still retained, I have spoken before, and would now only say a few words concerning them. Brown is about three miles from the city, composed of one-story buildings, and with extensive grounds. The Eruptive Hospital, with its separate buildings, is from one to four miles distant in another direction. The prevalence of the small-pox has made it necessary to occupy two of the largest of these buildings for those afflicted with this disease. The capacity of all these hospitals, however, is, as I have mentioned, only for two hundred and fifty patients. The other two buildings are used for measles and erysipelas cases. As to Hospital No. 18, if it were only on account of the awkward arrangement of the rooms, I could hope it would soon be given up, for other and better places, that are being prepared. There is nothing "ship shape" about it.

Hospitals No. 3 and 4 (old numbers,) are detached from other buildings, and, having windows upon all sides, can, with care, be easily ventilated; and one, No. 3, has quite a large space around it. Hospital No. 1 is near the Nashville depot, and this is about all that can be said in favor of it. The very sick and wounded men, who are feeble after a long railroad journey, can be moved to this hospital, with less discomfort than to any other; and yet they must be carried up to the second story by a narrow flight of stairs. There are no grounds about this hospital, and in summer the dust from the street, upon which the windows open, and through which hundreds of vehicles pass every day, going to and from the depot, and the sun beating in at the same window, make some rooms unbearable. The kitchens to this hospital are not half as large as they should be, and they are suffering there now for the want of a good

range. It is certainly desirable to have some place near the depot for receiving patients, who may possibly arrive late at night, or are very feeble; and it would be an unnecessary cruelty, after they had endured so much, to give them a long ride through the city; but it seems to me some more comfortable arrangement could be made for this emergency, and that the time for the change has fully arrived. Lest, however, I should have given a wrong impression of the care and comfort of the soldiers in this hospital, I will give here the opinion of a father, whose son had been in this hospital a week at the time of his making the statement, and had been in continual attendance upon him. His son had been wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, in the right thigh, and had been lying ill in hospitals ever since. He was an intelligent, fine-looking boy, pale from his wound, which was still a running sore. The father, who exhibited many indications of the tenderness and anxiety of a mother's love for his son, said he had learned of his severe illness, and he could not stay away from him longer. He found him in Nashville, remained with him a while in hospital there, and finally, upon a cot in one of the hospital cars of the Commission, he had gotten him to Louisville. His son "had brightened up a good deal," and he believed his going after him had saved his life. When he arrived at Louisville, he found that the descriptive roll of his son had not been forwarded with him, and, as he then hoped to obtain his discharge immediately, he was in great trouble, learning that this would delay him. Some one told him of the aid he might obtain from the Commission, and he went to the Directory and made known his distress. A telegraph was sent to Nashville, the descriptive roll hunted up, and the next day, or the day following, was forwarded to Louisville. But now he found that, from the condition of the wound, his son could not be discharged immediately; and he was almost in despair, for his heart was set upon getting him home. I told him I could probably get a furlough for him; but at first he did not know how to listen to any thing so unsatisfactory. Ultimately, however, he was very glad to take any favor that would allow him to take his son home, no matter for how short the time. The surgeon was very busy, and I filled up the form myself, and, upon the surgeon's signing it, took it to the Medical Director; and on account of some informality, by reason of a new order, was obliged to take it back to the hospital for correction. This was immediately done, and it was forwarded to headquarters at Lexington, and in a few days there came, what was then considered a very great boon—the furlough. During this time I often came in contact with the father; he told me he had witnessed from day to day the food and attentions given to the patients, and he believed they were as comfortable as they would be if they were at home, and many of them more so; he had written home that very day saying so; and he added, "So far as he had observed, there was plenty to eat, and a variety." Of the surgeon who was there going through the ward, he remarked: "He is a devoted man. He was in the ward last night at nine o'clock, and again about twelve o'clock, and is in the hospital all night, if there is any need." He was very grateful for the aid the Commission rendered him, and said, "It had, indeed, been the greatest comfort and assistance to him, in his efforts to get his son home." He was particularly grateful for the bed for his son in the hospital car of the Commission from Nashville. "Without it he could not have moved him."

From this long digression, I would turn to conclude what I have further to say in description of the hospitals.

At present, there are five hospitals in New Albany, where formerly there were eleven. The number of beds being in all 840, and the number of patients 450. The public school buildings, formerly used for hospitals, have been given up there, as well as at Louisville. Two of those remaining, have grounds around them of considerable extent, and in many other respects are better adapted for hospitals than any others. One, No. 6, has a fine reading room, for papers, periodicals, and books; and lately, they have procured a small hand press from which they print notices, and have issued one edition of a monthly paper, much to the amusement of the soldiers. They furnish the original matter and set up the type.

Hospital No. 16, at Jeffersonville, has some eighty-seven beds; it is near the depot, and has, to some little extent, ministered to the wants of sick soldiers who were waiting for some train, or were too feeble to go any farther without attaining more rest; and many a poor fellow on his way home, has lain down upon a bed in this hospital, just for a little refreshment, before he should commence his weary journey again to reach his family, and has gone in a few days, to his long home, and his poor, shattered body placed under the sod, far from his wife and little ones. I remember one that was brought in speechless; no one could tell where the home was, which he had thus vainly struggled to reach, or who would mourn over the long silence, and in coming years wonder, with tearful eyes, where his life closed, and where his poor body was lying.

There ought, it seems to me, to be a home established at this point; it has been

a subject of consideration for some time, and what has been done here, has been, I believe, through the influence of the Commission; but there was never more need than now, for Jefferson Hospital, about a mile from the depot, having capacity for fifteen hundred patients, would, of itself, make it necessary. This hospital is altogether the largest in this vicinity. It has now some two or three hundred patients, but is in a crippled condition, because all of its arrangements are not completed. This is the grand idea of a hospital. Every thing that could well be imagined, every thing that experience could suggest, or money procure, is here combined in the way of conveniences, for the care, and comfort, and recovery of the sick soldier. The wards are separate buildings for about sixty patients, with a room for washing dishes, a dining-room, a wash-room, bath-room, wardmaster's room, and water-closets, and with warm and cold water supplied to every ward. A steam-engine forces the water from a well connected with the river, into a large reservoir, and from thence it is conveyed to all the buildings. There is to be a steam laundry, and by steam the wood is to be sawed, the kettle boiled, and sundry other useful and necessary things accomplished. The great change from the miserable rooms now used as barracks, where, upon the first opening of hospitals in this city, the sick were crowded together, depending, in great measure, upon voluntary assistance. This magnificent hospital must rejoice the heart of every philanthropist, and what is of more importance, the hearts of all those who have sons and brothers in the army.

The patients generally in our hospitals, have been well cared for, and the only real cause for complaint, it seems to me, has arisen from mismanagement, bad cooking, and in one or two instances, purloining. I attempted to show in a former report, from statistics, that if a hospital is economically managed, there will be money enough, generally, from the hospital fund for all the luxuries needed for the very sick. I am still of the opinion, where there is good management, very little is required beyond what the Government supplies. I have visited the hospitals, generally, in connection with cases of special relief, and this work has been a ceaseless call upon my time. I could not mention the almost numberless instances, in which I have rendered assistance and relief. Not a day passes, without having some of this work to do. Since my last report I have collected, for discharged men in hospital, and those too sick to attend to their own papers, $1,790 37; and since this month, last year, $11,309 40. The present location of the paymaster at the Soldiers Home, is of very great comfort to the feeble soldier going there for his pay, and this diminishes the number of those who desire attention to their papers in the hospitals.

I have alluded in other reports, to the great distress to soldiers and their families, from criminal carelessness and neglect in forwarding to the hospitals, with the men, their descriptive rolls. I have obtained lately, returns from nearly all the hospitals of the city, and of 1,400 men, 400 were without their descriptive rolls. There can be no good excuse offered for this disobedience to orders and distress of families. Two or three days since a surgeon was written to by the Secretary of the "Soldier's Aid Society," that was supporting the man's family, asking "why private ——— did not send money to his family,' and the answer was, "that he had no descriptive roll," and had not been able to get it for nineteen months. He is in the Invalid Corps. At the headquarters of this post, in the discharging office, are now lying over 750 certificates of disability. Three-fourths of them have been there over a year, awaiting the descriptive rolls, which are necessary to make out the final statements for a discharge, and settlement with Government. The amount of distress represented by these papers can scarcely be estimated. Three days since I received a letter from a man in great distress. He is fast losing his sight. He left with me power of attorney to collect his pay; but his certificate of disability is among the 750 mentioned above, and without his descriptive roll, his final settlement cannot be made out. Much more care is now used in the hospitals than ever before, with reference to these important papers, but so much distress continually arises, that a new order should, without doubt, be issued, or some definite punishment attached to the old one. I have visited the companies of the invalid corps stationed across the river, from time to time, and in their need extended to them the aid of the Commission.—*Mr. Bushnell's Report.*

THE WORK OF INSPECTION.

On the 5th of March, Dr. Douglas, Associate Secretary and chief of inspection, reported the following inspectors of the Commission as at work in their respective fields:

Inspector Crane, having first completed a sanitary inspection of the army of occupation in Texas, and reporting a very high health rate.

Inspector Marsh, in the Department of the South, as engaged in the duties consequent upon the Florida campaign.

Inspector Page, engaged in his usual duties of superintending the operations of the Commission in North Carolina, and

meeting the emergency springing out of the rebel attack upon Newbern.

Inspectors Winslow and Fairchild, having first completed the records relative to the battle of Gettysburg, and sent them to the actuary of the Commission for tabulation.

Inspector Nichols is busy in a minute inspection of the sanitary condition of the troops in his circuit.

Inspector Castleman is engaged in a second inspection of the forces in Western Virginia.

Inspector Swalm is engaged in sanitary labors in the Army of the Ohio.

Inspector Read is with the Army of the Cumberland.

Dr. N. S. Warren goes immediately to the aid of the latter.

Inspector Coxe reports from Memphis.

THE RETURNED PRISONERS.

Mr. F. N. Knapp, Assistant Secretary, reports, March 17th, "That General Butler has issued a special order, giving the agents of the U. S. Sanitary Commission authority to perform relief work upon the flag of truce boats.

"General Butler is most cordial in his readiness to afford facilities for the Commission to do its work in his department."

* * * * *

Mr. Knapp continues:

"About 6 P. M., Tuesday, (we arrived at Fortress Monroe, Tuesday morning,) the flag of truce of boat from City Point reached Fortress Monroe, with some five hundred of our returned prisoners. Mr. Abbott and I went on board, and accompanied them to Annapolis. On account of some delay at Fortress Monroe, and the heavy wind in the night making it very rough for the boat, (City of New York,) we did not reach Annapolis until 1½ P. M., Wednesday, (yesterday.) Thence, on our way to Washington, we visited Camp Peroli.

"The condition of the prisoners on the flag of truce boat indicated the terrible sufferings they have had, upon Belle Isle especially—exceedingly weak and emaciated. Of the four hundred and fifty privates, some seventy-five were in the so-called hospital of the boat, too weak to sit up without pain and exertion. Yet *none* of these were from the *hospitals* at Richmond; all were considered well men, from Belle Isle. One died from City Point to Fortress Monroe, during the night, as we came up; and some eight or ten more cannot live long—all apparently the result, simply or chiefly, of lack of food.

"The provisions made upon the boat for the comfort of the returned prisoners are considerable. The surgeon in charge, Dr. Elliot, seems humane, and desirous of performing his duty. He has a hospital, which will be improved by a wind-sail he purposes to put in. I have sent down to-day for him to draw from a stock of 'supplementary supplies,' deposited at Fortress Monroe with the quartermaster, on the wharf buildings.

"Mr. Abbott, or some one else, will go to Fort Monroe to come up with the next boatload; after which, probably, some agent of the Commission will be constantly on the boat in its trips, to render such service as he may, which, I think, will amount to considerable. The arrangements at Annapolis are good for receiving the prisoners.

"Mail compels me to close here.

"Truly yours, &c.,

"F. N. KNAPP,

"*Assistant Secretary.*"

HOW SANITARY STORES ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

They are placed in store-rooms as convenient as possible to the hospitals and camps, in charge of a competent store-keeper, and are given out by him, first and principally on the written request of the surgeon in charge, who in this request states the number for whom he desires to procure stores, and the special wants.

Secondly. The store-keeper issues stores on the application of the ladies in charge of what is called the "light-diet kitchen," in hospitals. Those drawn by the surgeon are, as a general rule, placed in charge of those ladies, when the hospitals are so fortunate as to have such help. These ladies cook and distribute them to the sick.

Thirdly. The stores are given to "Hospital Visitors"—agents who go to hospitals and camps, seeking out from every possible source any special cases of want, and supplying them. Such visits are made as often as possible.

Fourthly. The store-keepers fill all orders given by State agents, for any soldier they may find to be needy, or who apply to them for relief. They also furnish to individual soldiers, who may apply to any of the agents for relief, as soon as it can be ascertained they are really needy. Under a general order from the Secretary of the Department, they extend to the agents of the Christian Commission the same privileges as are enjoyed by our own relief agents, distributing to them to supply any individual cases of neglect or suffering which they may discover.

Fifthly. They furnish goods to the "Soldiers' Homes" and to the "Hospital Trains." When application is made by the surgeons or the soldiers for such articles as the Government has for distribution, effort is made by the agents of the Commission to have them supplied from Government stores.—*Sanitary Reporter.*

LETTER OF CHARLES BUTLER, Esq.

[The letter given below was written by Charles Butler, Esq., of Franklin, Butler Co., O., a gentleman well and widely known in the region in which he resides, as a man of large business experience, and a conscientious and earnest Christian. He went to Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville, in behalf of the Cincinnati Branch Commission, to examine into the wants of the Army, and the character and efficiency of our work:]

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.,
February 22d, 1864.

MR. EDITOR,—As I promised, I write you, giving a few items of the workings of the Sanitary Commission, that the "home folks" may be encouraged to work on in the good cause, and particularly that they may be assured that their efforts to reach the suffering soldiers are successful.

The great difficulty that the regiments in the front have to contend with at present, is a tendency to scurvy; and in their utter inability to procure any thing in the shape of vegetables, there will be seen the necessity of sending any thing and every thing in that line to these men. And they not only need such articles of diet, but they greatly want them. One Colonel said, my men will gladly pay twenty-five cents for a potato, and ten cents for an apple. The potatoes are eaten raw, scraped or sliced in vinegar, and much relished by the men.

I conversed with at least ten Surgeons, and the universal opinion was, that raw onions and potatoes, served up as a salad, was the best preventative known for scurvy.

I find almost all the regiments here, and around this place, have lately received potatoes, onions, sour krout, pickles, etc., that have been sent from the Cincinnati Branch Sanitary Commission—some 500 barrels having been sent to this place. I found one regiment that had received ten barrels of potatoes, six of onions, two of krout, and two of pickles. This regiment had thirty cases marked scurvy, and upwards of one hundred with decided symptoms of it. In two weeks it had almost disappeared, and the Surgeons said if he could get one more such supply his men would be well. He used the vegetables raw.

Could the people at the North see the soldiers as they receive their rations of vegetables, read the satisfaction in their countenances, and notice the care with which they dispose of, say a dozen potatoes in a choice place, eating one at a meal, they would feel doubly paid for their pains in sending to them these luxuries.

It was a matter of special interest to visit the Soldiers' Home, and as the men came in to their meals, see them reach out and take two or three potatoes each, as children often do. I have never heard the Sanitary Commission lauded more than on this trip.

Said one young man who had lost his leg, "Had it not been for the Sanitary Commission I should have died." Said an old man from Illinois, who was bringing away his own son and the sons of two neighbors, "I have worked for the Sanitary Commission always, but I shall go home and work with ten-fold the energy I have done formerly. I see what good it has done in ministering comfort to the sick and wounded, and saving life."

Said one, who had been in the hospital three months, "We had supplies from the Commission every day, and, but for that, it seems to me the men would have starved, being so weak and feeble we could not eat the Government rations."

Wrote a fine young man, who had lost one leg, "I cannot feel that I can leave these scenes that have so long surrounded me, without expressing my gratitude to the Sanitary Commission. I had heard that there was such an institution in the Army, but now I feel it; for I believe it has been the means of saving my life. I am an officer, (Captain, 100th Ill. Vol.,) and was in the same hospital as the privates, and we all alike received daily supplies from the Sanitary Commission. Wounded men need nutritious food, and it seems to me that many of the men must have died but for the timely aid they thus received."

I found one man not a member of the Sanitary Commission, but whose whole soul is in the good work of helping the soldier, who had gotten three bales of blankets from the Commission, just before the "cold spell" in January last, and who says: "I distributed those blankets singly, and gave them all to soldiers who had neither blanket nor overcoat. Some of the men shed tears of joy and gratitude as they left me."

Allow me to add my testimony, after visiting some twenty or thirty hospitals, and seeing hundreds of men, and talking with them; and my time, for two weeks, with one single day's exception, has been spent in constant inspection, and efforts to ascertain the efficiency of the Commission.

I fully believe that the waste or misapplication of goods sent to the Army by the U. S. Sanitary Commission does not amount to the one hundredth part of the whole. All hospitals are not exactly alike, but at the Field Hospital, in Nashville, in charge of Dr. M'Dermott, where some 2,000 patients now are, I believe not as

much waste occurs as in many of our large families at home. We, at the North, hear of the misapplication of a few articles, while the thousands that go directly to the men are not heard from.

The people at home may rest in the assurance that they are relieving multitudes of their sons and neighbors, and rather than relax in the least, when called on again, they should double their energies. CHAS. BUTLER.

HOMES AND LODGES.

Reports for the month, from the following "Homes" and "Lodges," have reached us:

WASHINGTON.

The number admitted to the "Home" during the month of February, was 623; number lodged, 3,096; number of meals given, 7,224—to men from twenty different States.

At the "Lodge," the number of applicants for collection of pay, was 180; and the amount collected, was $21,006.66—the applicants were from fifteen different States. The number of meals furnished, was 6,926; and the number of lodgings, 1,299.

At the "Home for Soldiers' Wives and Mothers," from December 26th to March 1st, there have been admitted 93 women and 31 children, from thirteen States. These women were entire strangers in the city, and in nearly every case without money.

ALEXANDRIA.

The number of meals furnished at the "Lodge" in Alexandria during the month, was 1,450; number of lodgings, 239.

BRASHER CITY.

At the "Home" in Brasher City, the number of men admitted during the two weeks, from the 1st to the 15th of February, was 257; number of meals furnished, 797; number of lodgings, 197.

NASHVILLE.

At the Soldier's Home in Nashville, during the four weeks ending Feb. 27th, 7,406 meals and 3,581 lodgings were furnished to soldiers, from twenty-one different States. The average number cared for per day, was 929; transportation was procured for 1,859; pay drawn for 95; and the amount collected and paid over was $12,195.42.

MEMPHIS.

At the Soldiers' Home in Memphis during the same time, 4,639 meals and 1,340 lodgings were furnished to soldiers, from seventeen different States. The average number cared for per day, was 1,625, and pay was drawn for 15.

PENSION AGENCY.

The following is the report received from the above office, during the months of January and February:

Number of applications for pensions made out, 145; number of letters written, 681.

BACK PAY.

The report of the Agent for procuring certificates for the back pay of invalid soldiers, in the Hospitals of Washington and vicinity, during the past month, shows the number of cases taken and completed, was 134; the number of letters written during the month, was 175, and the amount represented by the cases completed $6,766.24.

We find the following in the *Elmira Daily Advertiser* of March 7th:

It is not at all surprising that as activity and interest on behalf of the Sanitary Commission increases, slander and detraction should also multiply, and the faith of many be shaken in the good accomplished by the efforts of the Commission. Under these circumstances a letter was written to Surgeon May, Hospital No. 1, Nashville, Tenn., by a friend of his, asking for his experience and observation in the matter. The answer was a detailed account of all the Commission had done for him, and for those to whom his observation had extended. For the sake of the doubtful public we are requested to publish a condensed statement of the facts contained in his letter:

"The very important matter concerning which you ask me my experience and observation, interests me very much, and I wish I could *tell* you all I feel, for the pen is too slow and dumb a tongue to do justice to this most noble, benevolent and comprehensive charity; and although I could grow eloquent on the Sanitary Commission—its aims, purposes, and expansiveness are too well known by every intelligent American to need my feeble encomiums—and I should be surprised, indeed, that any soldiers, for whose welfare alone the Commission was organized, should underrate its excellencies, were I not conscious that there are fault-finders and grumblers every where—the army being no exception.

"On the 13th of June, 1862, I arrived at the 'White House,' from the Chickahominy swamps, sick with fever, as helpless as a child, and was carried on a stretcher into the cabin of the Sanitary boat—the 'Elgin.' My aching head was bathed with bay rum, one lady placed an orange to my fevered lips, while another prepared a cup of tea and plate of toast; every attention and kindness was shown me by all—oh! I prayed in my heart that God would bless the Sanitary Commission. But at Gettysburg we learned to appreciate its great excellencies and wonderful resources. Within a few hours after the battle, stores of the Commission began to reach us; blankets, shirts, bandages, sponges, jellies, crackers, fruits and fresh bread were dealt out by ladies, to the wounded and the most needy. At the General Hospital, Camp Letterman, where there were one thousand eight hundred wounded men, we saw the more perfect working of the Commission. Here they had several large tents for storage of their supplies, Dr. Winslow, once rector of the Elmira Episcopal church, having them in charge. His aim was to carefully and economically distribute the goods intrusted to him—jellies, fruits, preserved meats, woolen and cotton goods, lint, bandages, sponges, splints, fans, crutches, canes, straw hats, dressing gowns, ap-

ples, oranges, lemons, and vegetables by the barrel, were poured out like water—not to surgeons and attendants—but to the wounded. Ladies drew these things, and a surgeon's order was always honored, and hundreds of poor sufferers were made comfortable by the thousand things lavished upon them by the kind hearts at home, through the Sanitary Commission.

"There were two surgeons' messes there, and at different times more than thirty surgeons on duty. Their tables were furnished from the Government kitchen, but they were taxed $3 per week, which went into the 'Hospital Fund,' to furnish luxuries for the sick. I have sat down many a time, tired and weary, to a meal of tough meat, cold coffee and dry bread, but would not for the world have gone to the Sanitary Commission for a thing belonging to those wounded heroes. Here in Nashville, the greatest care is observed in distributing Sanitary stores. Rev. Mr. Ingraham, brother to the author of 'Pillar of Fire,' and other works, is in charge, and during my sickness the past week there came along a lot of well packed luxuries from the Commission, at the very moment when your letter reached me, and I was reading what the defamers of the Commission were saying of it at home.

"We are proud of our loyal, patriotic North, for these great, spontaneous, successful Sanitary Fairs, and trust that you will not be discouraged, because a few crumbs may be spilled from your bountiful boxes and barrels, but rejoice that the bushels, and barrels, and baskets full go to cheer the hearts and heal the wounds of those noble boys who bare their breasts to the shock of battle to save our homes and country.

"SURGEON HENRY MAY,
"*Nashville.*"

GEN. MEADE ON THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

THE WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Friday, April 8, 1864.

L. MONTGOMERY BOND, ESQ.:

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th instant, enclosing circulars of the "Committee on Labor, Incomes and Revenues" of the Great Central Fair for the United States Sanitary Commission. I feel very much flattered and complimented at the honor conferred on me, by placing my name as one of the honorary members of this important Committee.

It is hardly necessary for me to assure you, that I am with you heart and soul, in the great work of benevolence and charity, which you have entered on.

It has been my duty to make inquiry as to the practical working and benefit of the United States Sanitary Commission, and it affords me great pleasure to bear testimony, so far as this Army is concerned, to the inestimable benefits and blessings conferred by this noble Association on the suffering sick, and wounded soldiers.

A few facts in connection with this point may be of use to you.

At the battle of Gettysburgh, the number of wounded of our own Army alone amounted, by official reports, to thirteen thousand seven hundred and thirteen (13,713); those of the enemy left on the field, were estimated by our medical officers, as amounting to eight thousand. This would make in all, nearly twenty-two thousand suffering beings, requiring immediate care and attention to save life.

Few people can realize such large numbers, but if you tell them, that should they fill and pack your Academy of Music in Philadelphia, (which holds, I believe, some thirty-five hundred people,) *six times*, and then imagine every soul in this immense crowd wounded, they will have a chance idea of the great work for humanity on the field of Gettysburgh.

Now, although the Government is most liberal and generous in all its provisions for the sick and wounded, yet it is impossible to keep *constantly on hand* either the *personnel* or supplies required in an emergency of this kind.

In addition to this difficulty at Gettysburgh, I was compelled to pursue the retreating foe, and, as I expected, in a few days, to have another battle a some distant point, it was absolutely necessary that I should carry away the greater portion of my Surgeons and medical supplies, so that the wounded at Gettysburg were, in a measure, dependent upon such extra assistance as the Government could hastily collect, and upon the generous aid so cheerfully and promptly afforded by the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, and the various State and Soldiers' Aid Societies. All the additional aid from every source was here most urgently needed, and it gives me great pleasure to say that, from the reports of my medical officers, I am satified the United States Sanitary Commission, as well as the others above-named, were fully up to the work before them.

What has occurred in the past, may occur in the future. There is no nobler or holier work of Christian love or charity, and if the voices of the brave soldiers are of any influence, you may rest assured you have their hearty wishes and earnest prayers.

Most respectfully and truly yours,
GEORGE G. MEADE,
Major-General Commanding Army of the Potomac.

WESTERN SCENES.—No. 2.

WOMEN IN AHE HARVEST-FIELD.

Of late we have been called much into the country. Every week since the harvest commenced, we have been more or less into the great farming districts of our beautiful prairie land, and have seen for ourself how busy a time the harvest season is to the farmers. It has

seemed to us, as we have rushed along on the railroad for forty, sixty, a hundred or a hundred and fifty miles, let our course lie in whatever direction it might, that our way has always led through one continuous wheat field. Everywhere the golden grain was waving, and the two-horse reapers, cutting it down in a wholesale fashion, that would astonish a New England farmer, could be counted by hundreds in a ride of half a dozen hours. The crops are generally good, and in some instances heavy, and every man and boy are pressed into the service, to secure the abundant harvest.

More than this, we found women extensively in the field, driving the reapers, and binding, shocking and loading the grain—an unusual sight to our eyes. At first, we were displeased with it, and turned away in aversion. By and by, we came to observe how skillfully they drove the horses around and around the wheat field, diminishing more and more its periphery at every circuit, the glittering blades of the reaper cutting wide swathes with a crisp, craunching sound, that it was pleasant to hear. Then, also, we saw that when they followed the reapers, binding and shocking, although they did not keep up with the men, yet their work was done with more precision and nicety, and the sheaves had an artistic finish that the others lacked. So we said to ourself, "they are worthy women, and deserve praise; their husbands are probably too poor to hire help, and so like the helpmeets God designed them to be, they have girt themselves to the work of men, and *are* doing it famously. Good wives! good women!"

Sometimes in our journeys, our route has led off from the railroad, across the country, six, ten and twenty miles—and always, and ever, through the same fields of yellow grain, and green, waving corn. Now a river shimmered like silver through the gold of the wheat and the oats—and now a fine growth of young timber made a dark green back-ground for the harvest fields. And here, as everywhere, in greater or less numbers, women were busy at the harvesting. On one occasion, the carriage came to a halt opposite a field where some half a dozen women were harvesting with two men, and not a little curious to know what these female reapers were like, we walked over and accosted them.

"And so you are helping to gather the harvest," we said to a woman of forty-five, who sat on the reaper to drive, as she stopped her horses for a brief rest. Her face was pleasant and comely, although sun-burned, with honest, straight-forward eyes, a broad brow, and a mouth of more sweetness than firmness. Her dress, a dark calico, without hoops, strong shoes and a shaker.

"Yes, ma'am," she said; "the men have all gone to the war, so that my man can't hire help, and I told my girls, we must turn to, and give him a lift with the harvestin'."

"Have you sons in the army?"

"Yes, ma'am," and a shadow fell over the motherly face; "all three of 'em 'listed, and Neddy, the youngest was killed at Stone River, the last day of last year. We've money enough to hire help, if it could be had, and my man don't like for me and the girls to be workin' out o' doors; but there don't seem no help for it now."

We stepped over where the "girls" were binding the fallen grain. They were fine lassies, with the sweet eyes and honest mouth of the mother, but brown like her, and clad in the same sensible costume.

"Well, it seems that you, like your mother, are not afraid to lend a hand at the harvesting?"

"No, we're willing to help out doors in these times. My three brothers are in the army, my cousins, and most of the men we used to hire—so that there's no help to be got but women's, and the crops must be got in, you know, all the same."

"I tell mother," said another of the girls, "as long as the country can't get along without grain, nor the army fight without food, that we'r serving the country just as much here in th harvest-field, as our boys are in the battle-field, and that sort o' takes the edge off from this business of doing men's work, you know," and a hearty laugh followed this statement.

Another was the wife of one of the soldier sons, with a three year old boy toddling beside her, tumbling among the sheaves, getting into mischief every five minutes, and "causing more plague than profit," as his mother declared. From her came the same hearty assent to this new work which the strait of the country had imposed upon her, and she added, with a kind of homely pride, that "she was considered as good a binder as a man, and could keep up with the best of 'em. I, for my part," she continued, "am willing to do anything to help along in these war times."

We would have talked longer with these women, who were now invested with a new and heroic interest—but the driver calling out that he had mended the broken harness, and was ready to go on, we could only assure them "that they were worthy of the days of the Revolution, and that we were proud to have met them," and bade them "good-by."

Now we saw things with different eyes. No

longer were the women of the harvest-field an unwelcome sight. Patriotism inspired them to the unusual work, and each brown, hard-handed, toiling woman was a heroine. Their husbands and sons had left the plow in the furrow, and the reaper in the grain, at the anguished call of the country, and these noble women had loyally bidden them "God-speed!" and without weak murmuring or complaint had put their own shoulders to the hard, rough farm-work, feeling that thus they also served the common cause. Yes, and amid all this weary labor, these women find time for the manufacture of hospital supplies, which come, box after box, filled with shirts and drawers, dried apples and pickles, currant wine and blackberry jam, to be forwarded to the poor fellows languishing in far-off Southern hospitals. All honor to the farmers' wives and daughters of the great Northwest! "Many women have done virtuously, but these excel them all!"—*Mrs. Livermore.*

PLAN FOR THE FORMATION OF SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETIES.

We publish, by request, the following plan for the formation of Soldier's Aid Societies, prepared by the Woman's Central Association of Relief, Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission in New York. It has been in successful operation for the past nine months in parts of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and the State of New York:

SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETIES.

Individual and desultory labor accomplishes but little, compared with that which is systematized and concentrated. One earnest woman, whose heart responds to the appeals made in behalf of our sick and wounded soldiers, can do more for them by enlisting the active sympathy and co-operation of her friends and neighbors than by days and nights of unassisted toil.

Let her call together three or four of the most patriotic and energetic women in the village, and consult with them as to the feasibility of forming a *Soldier's Aid Society.* Let them determine upon a day and place for public meeting, to which all the women and young girls of the neighborhood shall be invited. The Pastors of every church should be requested to give this invitation from their pulpits on the ensuing Sunday; a short notice should be put up at the Post-Office, and, if possible, in the county paper.

It may be well to ask a gentleman, conversant with the ordinary rules of conducting meetings, to preside on this occasion. His advice in regard to the forms by which the officers of the society should be elected, order of business, &c., will be valuable for those who are unaccustomed to it. This formality, which may appear unnecessary to some, is, in reality, important to any efficient action on the part of a society. Every Soldier's Aid Society, however small, should have its regular "order of business," and go through with it at every meeting.

The following is suggested as a

Plan of Organization for Country Societies:

The name of this Society shall be the Soldier's Aid Society of ———.

Its object is to provide supplies for the aid and comfort of the sick and wounded soldiers of the United States Army.

Its officers shall consist of a
President,
Five Vice-Presidents,
Secretary and Treasurer (the same person),
Committee on Cutting (five members),
Committee on Packing (five members),

There shall be an annual election for officers. All vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the *President.*

The *President* shall preside at the meetings, and have the general interests of the Society in charge. She shall purchase all materials, and, at every monthly meeting, after consultation with the Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer, present a plan of work for the ensuing month.

The *Vice-Presidents* shall (one of them,) preside in the absence of the President. They, in connection with the President and Secretary, shall devise ways and means for improving and increasing the usefulness and efficiency of the Society. At the meetings the Vice-Presidents shall distribute the work, have the general supervision of it, and collect it again. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents to canvass the village and neighborhood, for the purpose of obtaining as many members as possible. A division into districts, will facilitate the work, They should explain the objects of the Society, and endeavor to enlist the sympathies of all in its behalf. The names and Post-office address of all members are to be recorded in a book, kept for that purpose, by the Secretary. No membership fee shall be required.

The *Secretary* and *Treasurer* shall keep all the books of the Society, conduct the correspondence with that Branch of the Sanitary Commission to which the supplies may be sent, and attend to any other writing which may be necessary, such as serving notices, etc. She shall write to the Commission for any information which may be desired by any one member of the Society. She shall give a receipt, keep an account, and be responsible for all moneys received by her; shall pay all bills marked "correct," and signed by the President or any one of the Vice-Presidents; make a statement at every monthly meeting, of the condition of the treasury, and, at the end of every three months, present a quarterly report, giving in detail the amount of work accomplished and where sent, money received and expended, number of members, average attendance, and any other information which may be desired and interesting. At every meeting the Secretary shall record the names of those members present.

The *Cutting Committee* shall cut out all material according to approved patterns, and shall have a sufficient quantity of work prepared for every meeting.

The *Packing Committee* shall elect its own Chairman, who is to make a detailed and accurate list of the contents of each box *while it is being packed.* The list should have the name of the Society written upon it, with the name and Post-office address of the Secretary, and should be placed just under the cover of the box or

barrel. A duplicate of this invoice must be sent without delay to the Secretary, who will notify the Sanitary Commission, by letter, of every consignment, enclosing a list of the contents of each package. Every box or package should be clearly directed and *marked on the outside with the name of the town or village from which it is sent.*

Directions in regard to packing may be found in the circulars of all the branches of the sanitary Commission. (When sending to New York, the freight charges will be paid upon delivery at No. 10, Cooper Union.)

Meetings shall be held once a fortnight, or once a week, at the option of the Society. It is better, when practicable, to have them held in some regular place of assembling—the town hall, court-house, public school-house, the vestry of a church, &c.

MEETINGS.

Order of Business.

I. After the work has been distributed, the President shall call the meeting to order, and open it by calling the roll of all the members of the Society, made out alphabetically—those present answering to their names.

II. The President shall read the names of those members present at the previous meeting.

III Report of Secretary and Treasurer.

IV. Report of Cutting Committee, (number of garments cut).

V. Report of Packing Committee.

VI. The President, or any member deputed by her, shall read any letters or printed matter lately received from the Sanitary Commission.

VII. At monthly meetings the President shall present a plan of work for the ensuing month.

VIII. Miscellaneous business.

HOW IS THE TREASURY TO BE SUPPLIED?

The following plan for supplying the Treasury of Village Societies has been in successful operation for the past two years, in parts of the State of New York and elsewhere:

It depends for its efficiency upon the zeal and activity of the *young people*, who form themselves into an association having for its object the *collection of funds*. We want the little girls, and older ones, too, who often ask us "if there is any thing *they* can do for the soldiers," to feel that we are now answering their questions and speaking directly to them.

As the "Alert Club," composed of the little girls and young people of Norwalk, Ohio, has been one of the most active and successful of these associations—collecting $560.12 in seven months, from a little village of only about two thousand inhabitants, and no really wealthy men among them—it is proposed that their name should be adopted for all similar organizations.

The following plan is taken almost entirely from a newspaper article, published by the Soldier's Aid Society of Northern Ohio, Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission:

ALERT CLUB.

The object of the Alert Club is to furnish the Soldier's Aid Society with funds to carry on its operations, and all moneys collected for this purpose are to be unconditionally paid into the Treasury of the Parent Society.

The Club should have a President, Secretary, two Treasurers, and forty Collectors.

The Club appoints its own Collectors, who hold office for one year, unless re-elected. There is also an annual election for President, Secretary, and Treasurers. The President shall fill all vacancies which may occur during the year.

The President shall preside at the meetings, call the roll of the members—those present answering to their names—and shall read aloud the names of those members present at the previous meeting. She shall also read any letters or printed matter which may have been received from the Secretary of the Parent Society.

The Secretary of the Club shall record the names and address of all members, and at every meeting register the names of those present. The Secretary shall make an annual report to the President of the Soldier's Aid Society, at the annual meeting of the Society.

The President is to divide the village and neighborhood into ten districts. Four collectors are then appointed for each district—two for the "ladies' monthly," and two for the "gentlemen's monthly." They are to obtain subscriptions of twenty cents per month among the ladies, and from the gentlemen a monthly subscription of as much as each subscriber is willing to place against his name. The collectors are to call at every house in their respective districts. Every two collectors will be furnished with a little book, in which the names of their subscribers and the sums collected will be entered. The President of the Club will receive books and pencils for this purpose from the Treasurer of the Soldier's Aid Society, who will gladly give the Club any assistance it may need, and whose interest, aid, and encouragement may always be relied upon.

The collectors are to go with their books to every subscriber immediately after the first Monday of every month, and on the following Saturday render their accounts to the Treasurers of the Club, who shall examine them, record the result in each case, in a book kept for the purpose, and pay over the sums collected to the Treasurer of the Parent Society—not later than the following Monday.

The Alert Club shall hold its monthly meetings on those Saturdays when the collectors make their returns. If desired, meetings may be held every fortnight. At their meetings they make slippers, piece quilts and quilt them, and perform such other services as their officers or the Parent Society may suggest. But the main object of the Association being *the collection of funds*, they are not expected to burden themselves by other labor.

Where Clubs have been particularly "on the alert," they have interested themselves in getting up entertainments, concerts, tableaux, strawberry parties, etc., besides the monthly subscriptions, and have materially increased the funds of the Society in this way.

L. L. S.

June 8th, 1863.

At the formation of an Alert Club, it has been found best for the officers of the Club to make the first call at every house, for the purpose of explaining the object of it, and to obtain the names of subscribers. This is only necessary to be done once. The collectors will immediately after make their first round.

THE VITAL AND SANITARY STATISTICS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE FRENCH TROOPS, UNDER LIKE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE AND LOCALITY.

(Continued from page 309.)

The Sanitary Ameliorations of the Sickness and Mortality effected of late Years.

I find, in regard to the health of the British Army at home, exclusive of the Horse Artillery, that for fifteen years, previous to 1854, the average death-rate was 14.7, and that of invaliding, 32.3 per 1,000; but that in 1860, and since the practical application of sanitary measures, adapted to climate and locality, these rates have respectively fallen to 7.32 and 21.30,* indicating a gain to the effective strength of 18.38 per 1,000. The proportion admitted for enthetic (or syphilitic) diseases, and constantly in hospital, was 23.69 per 1,000. In the hot climates of Jamaica, Ceylon, and Mauritius, where, from the 1st of January, 1830, to the 31st March, 1837, the death-rates were 91.49 and 34.6 respectively; these had fallen, in the year 1860, to 20.2, 19.6, and 23.8 per 1,000.

With the introduction into India of improved sanitary improvements, adapted to climate and localities, with restraints on vice and intemperance, corresponding decreasing rates, to indicate augmented health among our troops, must follow as natural results. The present army medical statistics, in reference to India, as I stated in my evidence, are not of any value in determining the question of how much reduction in the rates of mortality may be ultimately effected for that country; for, when uncombined with meteorological and medical observations, on the physiological and pathological effects of localities and climate, and classified arrangement of the prevailing endemic diseases, they are but relative proofs of hitherto unremoved sources of such diseases. The first right step in this direction was the organization of a statistical branch of the medical department of the army, with the introduction of new forms of returns, after the report of the Sanitary Commission of 1858; but a sufficient period has not yet elapsed for the production of those accurate and trustworthy statistical data, which we may confidently look for in the course of time.

Nevertheless well marked reductions in the death-rates of English troops, serving abroad, have been effected. During the period anterior to 1836, the rates for the Mediterranean stood as follows:

Gibraltar	22.0	deaths per 1,000 men.
Malta	18.7	"
Ionian Islands	23.3	"
Mean death-rate	23.5	

*See pp. 16 and 141 of the "Army Sanitary Report," 1860.

During the period from 1844 to March, 1846, the mortality had fallen to the following numbers:

	Effective Mean Strength.	Mortality.			Death rate per 1,000 men.
		1844.	1845.	Total.	
Gibraltar	3,371	41	41	82	12.2
Malta	1,858	36	31	67	18.
Ionian Islands	2,537	35	33	68	13.4
Total for the Mediterranean	7,766	112	105	217	14.5

For the period again, 1859 and 1860, the diminution stood thus:

	Effective Mean Strength.	Mortality.		Death rate per 1,000 men.
		1859.	1860.	
Gibraltar	5,381	40	62	9.41
Malta	5,630	101	63	18.8
Ionian Islands	3,875	46	29	9.8
Mediterranean	14,886	187	154	12.6

The results of these two last periods present in their favor, when compared with 1836, the following diminution of the mortality:

Gibraltar	11.2	deaths per 1,000
Malta	0.3	"
The Ionian Islands	11.2	"
Mean for Mediterranean	7.5	"

The annual mean difference being a gain of 16 men per 1,000 of the effective strength in our healthy colonial commands.

Turning to British possessions, reputed the most unhealthy, we find according to Sir A. Tulloch's statistical investigations, and the Army Report, 1860, that the results of sanitary ameliorations there have been yet more striking and satisfactory; and have followed measures for abandoning low, undrained, and filthy stations, and occupying the higher ground as the sites of well constructed barracks and hospitals, with attention to all other sanitary precautions, that have of late years been deemed necessary for securing the health of our soldiers abroad. The colonies, in which such improvements have been carried out, are Mauritius, Jamaica, the Antilles, with British Guiana, and Ceylon. Previous to 1836, the mean mortality of our forces occupying these colonies, was 84.2 per 1,000; which, during the period of 1844-45, on an effective strength of 7,194 men, had been reduced to 42.1 per 1,000; and in the last year, 1860, for which we have authentic returns, the mean mortality, including invalid deaths of the four stations, was only 17.57 per 1,000 of the effective mean strength. In applying the mortality-rate, before 1836, to an effective strength of 7,194 men, it will be found that we permitted 1,212 of these to die annually; but from

1844 to 1845, only 606 died; and in 1860 less than 303, being more than an annual saving of life of 1,000 men for every effective force of 7,194 soldiers. In proof of the mortality-rate for 1860, it may be well to here append, from the "Army Statistical Report," the particulars of these four colonies:

	Effective Mean Strength.	Mortality. 1860.	Death-rate per 1,000. Mean.
Mauritius	1,886	45	23.86
Jamaica	594	12	20.20
Antilles and Guiana	1,255	7	5.58
Ceylon	916	18	19.65
Total	4,651	82	17.17

With regard to India it is, as M. Boudin remarks, that part of the English Army over which military authority has not hitherto exercised any control, regarding the choice of places of encampment, or the duration of residence in certain insalubrious localities, and the relief of the troops. I would speak, says he, of the East Indian Army, as that part of the British Army, which is far from having gone through those sanitary ameliorations, which have comparatively followed the rules of *hygiéne*. The following table epitomizes, for the years 1845 and 1846, the effective strength of European troops, and the rate of mortality, in each of the three presidencies of Bombay, Madras, and Bengal:

	Effective.	Deaths.
Bombay, 1845	6,324	824
" '46	4,710	337
Madras, 1845	7,850	276
" '46	7,535	351
Bengal, 1844	11,003	1,028
" '45	11,280	984
Total	48,702	3,800

According to this document it follows that from an effective force of 24,351 men, 1,000 are lost annually by death, or 78 men per 1,000. Now, though M. Boudin is perfectly correct as to the rate per 1,000 during those years, yet they formed the period of the Sikh War, and 27 or 28 for casualties of wounds, and war service in climates not Indian, ought to have been deducted therefrom, leaving the mortality, from natural causes, at 50 per 1,000. This is a further illustration of the necessity of avoiding all sweeping conclusions, as to the mortality-rate, without perfect records and knowledge of all contingencies influencing the results. Still the mortality-rate of 50 per 1,000, as caused by preventible causes, is much beyond what it ought to be for India. The Commissioners' Sanitary Report of 1863 presents, on this subject, an overwhelming amount of evidence, and without exaggeration shows that in India there has been a fatal neglect of the conditions which injure the health of soldiers and increase the mortality; and that the Indian Government have not hitherto carried out what was essential to improve the sanitary military state and well-being of their soldiers.

It is but just to say, however, that no inconsiderable ameliorations of their sanitary state have been effected of late years, as the following statistical data indicate. The death-rate for five years, 1850-54, stood as follows for the three presidencies:

Bombay	23.09 deaths per 1,000 men.
Madras	39.76 "
Bengal	55.56 "
Mean	40.4 "

In 1860, these proportions for the British Army, including invalids, were considerably reduced, giving a mean diminution of 9.3 per 1,000 of our soldiers. The admissions and deaths occurred in the following proportions, the mean mortality ratio per 1,000 being less than that in Table VI for 1861:

	Average Strength.	Admissions into Hospit'l	Deaths. In India.	Deaths. Of Invalids.	Deaths. Total.	Ratio per 1,000 of Mean Strength. Admitted.	Ratio per 1,000 of Mean Strength. Died.
Bombay	11,388	22,013	332	29	361	1,933	31.70
Madras.	10,696	15,901	193	49	242	1,487	22.63
Bengal.	42,371	85,693	1,569	99	1,668	2,023	39.37
Total....	64,455	123,607	2,094	197	2,271	5,643	31.1

In thus reviewing the rates of Indian mortality, and the sanitary ameliorations effected of late years for the British Army, let us turn for a moment to consider the statistics of French military mortality under like conditions of climate and locality. I have already noticed that, for their tropical settlements of America and Africa, Table II sets down their mean mortality for ten years, 1838 to 1847, at 69.5 per 1,000. While the mean mortality of the civil population of France, at the soldier's age, is 12 per 1,000, that of the infantry of the line rises to 22.3. From 1819 to 1838, this in Senegal became 123.8, in Guadaloupe 101.3, in Martinique 102.8, in French Guiana 32.3, and in Bourbon 25.6 per 1,000. In Algeria, on an effective strength of 108,000 men for ten years, from 1837 to 1846, the mean death-rate was 75.8 per 1,000; from which probably the average casualty-rate for war and service ought to be deducted. This would reduce the mortality to nearly the same standard as for India; but whether such reduction is allowable, I know not, being altogether ignorant of the contingencies of that period. M. Boudin, however, adds that the simple comparison of the results, with those among English troops, proves better than all reasoning how much of the way is yet open for the

French to accomplish in regard to military *hygiéne*. In Table VII, which I have copied from him, regarding the losses of the French troops in Algeria, 1846, it would appear that from an effective of 99,700 men, the deaths in the African Hospitals were 6.88 per 1,000; and that the other casualties of discharged and sent to France, killed in battle, deaths in the hospitals of France, pensioned and invalided, amounted to 28.3; and would raise the total decrements of the troops to 97.1 per 1,000.

TABLE VII.—*Of the Losses of the French Troops in Algeria, for* 1846, *on a Mean Effective Strength of* 99,700 *Men.*

	Numbers.	Ratio per 1,000 Strength.
Admitted into the African Hospitals	121,138	..
Number of days under treatment in Africa	2,497,181	..
Discharged and sent to France.	2,089	20.9
Deaths in the African Hospitals	6,862	68.8
Killed in battle	116	1.1
Deaths in the Hospit's of France	246	2.4
Pensioned	130	1.5
Invalided	267	2.6

The Sanitary Measures still necessary for English Troops in India.

My great object by the preceding observations has been to show "that the present death-rate for the whole of India," instead of being 69 per 1,000, as assumed in the Sanitary Commissioners' Report, has been, for many years past, little more than half this rate of death from ordinary and natural causes; inasmuch as the above-mentioned high rate is not simply the *mortality*, but includes other rates of *decrement* from the effective strength, as those of *invaliding*, and of *extraordinary war-service*, in climates and localities not Indian. The high death-rate given is that of Bengal European troops, rather than that of soldiers serving at Madras and Bombay. It was chiefly caused by extraordinary war-service of the former, during the Cabul Massacre and Afghan War, and in the Burmese and Chinese Campaigns. A comparison, then, of the death-rate of troops, so employed out of India, with the death-rate of troops more comfortably housed, and adequately provided in the garrisons and stations of India, is manifestly a vague representation of Indian mortality, and must necessarily mislead as to what that rate is. At the commencement of the report the death-rate among the Company's troops, including invalids, from 1800 to 1856, is stated at 69 per 1,000; but while recapitulating this statement, at p. 165, it is said:

"*The annual death-rate for the whole of India has hitherto been about* 69 *per* 1,000. *The proposed European establishment is* 73,000 *men, and will, at the present rate of mortality, require* 5,037 *recruits per annum, to fill up the vacancies caused by death alone.*"

This rate of decrement, for both *mortality* and *invaliding*, might be certainly taken as a basis for correctly estimating the number of recruits hitherto necessary to fill up vacancies, but is not so far the mortality alone. Indeed, there is good reason to believe that 2,518, or half the Commissioners' figures, would be sufficient to make good the annual losses by death; and are yet further susceptible of great reduction, by the introduction into India of improved sanitary appliances, adapted to climate, locality, and seasons, and with restraints on vice and intemperance. By the latest return of the British Army in India, exclusive of the late Company's troops, the death-rate had sunk to 35.3 per 1,000; and the invaliding, with deaths on the passage home, caused a further loss of 33.3 per 1,000; being altogether a decrement of the whole strength of 68.6 per 1,000. Invaliding, even at home, has hitherto caused a decrement of 32.3 per 1,000, so that this cause of loss in India is not greatly in excess.

While I have thus fairly stated my objections to the manner in which the Commissioners' Report has brought forward the death-rate of India, as hitherto, 69 per 1,000, I cannot help noticing the inconsistency of this assumption with the facts set forth in other tables, appended to the report; Table IV of which shows that, for all India, 1847-56, it was only 51 per 1,000. This was seven years ago; and from which time the ameliorations have been progressive.

In regard to the other matters of the report, the causes of sickness and mortality, and the means of preventing them, I entirely agree with the view taken by the Commissioners. 1st. That by far the larger proportion of the mortality and inefficiency of the Indian Army has arisen from *endemic diseases*, and notably from fevers, diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, and from diseases of the liver. 2d. That the predisposition to these diseases is, in part, attributable to *malaria*, in conjunction with extremes of temperance, moisture, and variability. 3d. But that there are other causes of a very active kind in India, connected with *stations*, *barracks*, *hospitals*, and the *habits* of the men, of the same nature as those which are known, in colder climates, to occasion attacks of these very diseases, from which the Indian Army suffers so severely. In examining into these causes, we find, say they that the stations, generally have been selected without reference to health, and mainly from accidental circumstances, or for political and military reasons. Many of them are situated at low, damp, unhealthy positions, deficient in means of natural drainage, or on river banks, close to unwholesome native cities or towns. Both barracks and hospitals are built at, or close to, the level of the ground, without any thorough draught between the floors and

the ground. And the men, both in barrack rooms and sick wards, are exposed to damp and malaria from this cause, as well as from want of drainage. The ventilation is generally imperfect, and from the arrangement of doors and windows, men are exposed to hurtful draughts. Many of the rooms are too high, and, as a consequence, there is much *surface overcrowding* both in barracks and hospitals, *although with large cubic space.**

The greater or less *sickness and mortality* of all races in India are in proportion to the bad or good sanitary conditions, with moderate elevation of the site and localities where they live; and, in the present state of Indian drainage and agriculture, the Commissioners truly say, "that for all practical purposes, heat, moisture, and malaria are constantly present, and everywhere influencing the sanitary condition of the country, aided by filthiness of the stations, impurity of the air in certain stagnant states of the atmosphere, by surface overcrowding and want of ventilation in a barrack, by impurity of the water supplied, and occasionally unsuitable diet."

No stronger evidence can be given in support of the truth of the above conclusions, that those are the chief causes of disease among European soldiers in India; that the statistical data which show the rates of sickness and mortality, *from miasmic diseases*, are greater or less in proportion to the *unimproved* or *improved* sanitary condition of places and localities. In the Bengal and Northwest presidencies, the most malarious districts of India, the mortality for Dum Dum and Calcutta is cited at 77 per 1,000; at Hazareebaugh, 1,900 feet above the sea, during two years, 34 in 1,000; at Meerut, for nineteen years, 32 per 1,000, and Jullunder, 37 per 1,000.

The most frequent cause of epidemic outbreaks of Indian cholera and fever will, I believe, be found in certain stagnant conditions of the atmosphere, which favor the *accumulation of putrid animal matter* in the air of barracks and of stations, rendering it impure. When, in addition to this cause, bad food and bad water are allowed to contribute their share in impairing the nutrition of the system, and sapping the foundation of bodily strength among troops, the very worst features of sickness and mortality among them become manifest. These facts are prominently set forth in Dr. Hathway's Punjaub Sanitary Report, lately published; where he judiciously recommends that all barracks should be provided with flues, and that the barrack air should be, at all times, tested by an instrument invented by Dr. Angus Smith.

The great defect, in most Indian barracks, is that the *superficial area* per bed by no means corresponds with the cubic contents, and is sure to be followed by all the disastrous effects of *surface overcrowding*, when larger numbers of European soldiers are assembled at stations, than can be conveniently accommodated in the barracks and hospitals.

European troops are exposed to other causes of disease than those before enumerated; such as *intemperance* and *syphilitic* diseases. And while both greatly increase the numbers on the sick list, they ultimately tend to swell the rates of *mortality* and *invaliding*. They are not, indeed, the more *immediate* and *chief causes* of Indian mortality, though contributing largely to it, and should never be allowed to withdraw sanitary attention from those more general and prominent causes of sickness and mortality that require special measures of prevention.

With a view of removing all preventible causes of disease in India, the Commissioners' recommendations are embodied in thirty-nine suggestions, which are set down without any order as to the importance or priority of either. Having endeavored to point out, in the preceding observations, that diseases of miasmatic origin are the main causes of the mortality, I may enumerate in abstract the more prominent of these suggestions, and in their relative order of importance.

First. As to *morbid causes*, associated with *season*, *localities*, and *barracks*, the Commissioners recommend—

That no recruit be sent to India under twenty-one years of age, nor until he has completed his drill at home; and that recruits be sent direct from home to India so as to land there early in November.

That the strategical points of the country which must be occupied, be now fixed, with special reference to reducing, as far as possible, the number of unhealthy stations to be occupied.

That hill stations, or stations on elevated ground, be provided; and that a third part of the force be there located in rotation.

That the period of service be only ten years in India.

And, That the sanitary regulations, now in force in England, be applied to India, along with the extension, to all Indian stations, of the present system of army statistics, and a code of sanitary regulations issued under authority.

In connection with this part of the subject there are also recommendations for remedying defective drainage, for supplying pure water, for erecting barracks and hospitals on raised basements, with air circulating under the floors; that the ventilation of barracks and hospitals be sufficiently secured, independently of doors and windows; and that ablution and bath accom-

* "Report of the Commissioners, with Précis of Evidence," 8vo., pp. 160—162.

modation be provided for both these classes of buildings.

Second. In regard to *dietetic errors* and *clothing*, they recommend—

That no spirits be issued to troops on board ship, except on the recommendation of the medical officer in charge.

That the sale of spirits at canteens be discontinued, except in specific cases, on the recommendation of the medical officer, and only malt liquor or light wines allowed.

That the rations be modified to suit the season; and that flannel be introduced as under-clothing, and a better system of supplying boots introduced.

That the hospital diet tables, in use at home stations, be adopted in India, as far as practicable, and the hospitals supplied with properly-trained cooks.

Third. In regard to *exercise* and *recreation*, it is recommended—

That the means of instruction and recreation be extended to meet the requirements of each station. That covered sheds for exercise and gymnastics be provided, and that such gymnastic exercises be made a parade. That reading-rooms, with books and periodicals, be provided, and lighted at night. That only coffee, tea and other non-intoxicating drinks be sold to the men at those rooms. And that workshops and soldiers' gardens be established, in connection with the stations, wherever practicable. And lastly, that soldiers of good character should be selected and educated for subordinate offices of the administrative departments.

Fourthly. That, with the most reasonable hope of *lessening intemperance*, and *diminishing* the *prevalence of syphilitic diseases*, the soldiers' condition in the way of occupation, instruction, and recreation be improved, as the most moral and rational means of leading men away from the canteen and vice. They also recommend that additional means of cleanliness should be provided for the men in all barrack lavatories; and that the *reorganization of repressive measures of police*, formerly adopted in the three presidencies, for lessening the scourge of syphilitic diseases, should be carried out, according to the necessities of each locality. Although police supervision of prostitution for the large cities of Europe has proved an entire failure, yet the condition of native society in India is such as to promise better and less embarrassing expectations of success.

Fifthly. That, in order to secure the gradual introduction of the above-mentioned sanitary improvements for barracks, hospitals, and stations, whether at the seats of Government, or throughout towns in proximity to military stations, "*Commissions of Public Health*" should be appointed, and that they should be so constituted as to represent the various elements of civil, military, engineering, medical and sanitary knowledge.

Sir Hugh Rose, the Commander-in-Chief in India, by issuing orders, in July last, headed "Sanitary and Conservancy Regulations," has, in a great measure, anticipated the practical execution of this last recommendation for Bengal, where it was most needed, and will probably be followed by correspondingly successful results.

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H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
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R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
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Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
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HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
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45 William Street, New York.

Capital and accumulations,	$7,832,171.06
Net profits added to Capital in 1863,	743,128.98
Premiums received in 1863,	
Fire,	$2,610,510.43
Life,	719,703.35
Losses paid in 1863,	
Fire,	$1,494,592.35
Life,	347,903.30
Total losses paid from 1836 to 1863,	
Fire,	$11,331,697.98
Life,	3,362,685.52
Dividend paid, 1863, free of income tax,	40 per cent.

ALL THE ABOVE SUMS ARE GOLD.

No portion either of the capital or of the income of the "Globe Insurance Company," now in course of amalgamation with the "Liverpool and London," is included in this statement.

The Stockholders are personally responsible for all engagements of the Company.

March 19th, 1864.

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OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

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3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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Of the City of New York,

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INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - $500,000 00
ASSETS, - - - - - - - 604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$157,360 00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	364,385 00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603 11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000 00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,384 00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220 39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788 83
Other Property of Company	793 75
	$604,535 59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years.*

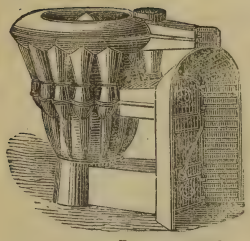
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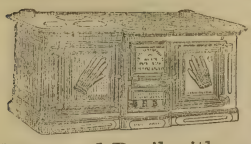


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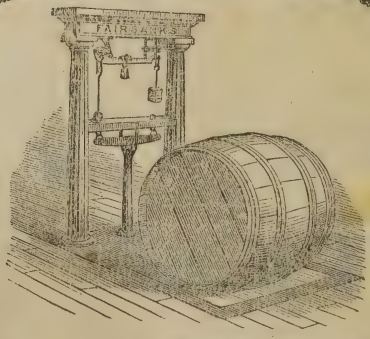
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